

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 APRIL 1984

Lebanon

New Premier — President Amin al-Jumayyil has entrusted former Prime Minister Rashid Karami with forming the new government, Beirut radio announced on 26 April. The confirmation of Karami's nomination as prime minister came after his talks with Al-Jumayyil on 25 and 26 April. Informed sources cited by the radio said all leaders and parties will be included in the new government, which will be formed next week when consultations have been completed. In France Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt confirmed that he is ready to join a national unity government as a minister of state alongside Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri and Christian leaders Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil if this helps end the bloodshed and promotes peace, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. Junblatt held talks with President Francois Mitterrand during his visit to Paris, the PSP radio noted.

Security Situation — The Security Arrangements Committee, in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, announced that it continued to implement the disengagement of forces plan on 25 April by deploying observers and Internal Security Forces in and around Beirut. Intermittent clashes continued across the contact lines, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon and the Voice of the Mountain. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that a French military mission arrived in Beirut to help reorganize the Internal Security Forces.

Syria

Al-Asad Interview — Syria wants "normal relations" with the United States, but the latter should not resort to the "policy of the gun" in its dealings with Syria, President Hafiz al-Asad declared in an interview with ABC's Peter Jennings broadcast by Damascus television. Charging that the United States' greatest mistake in Lebanon was to apply not a U.S. but an "Israeli" policy, Al-Asad said the United States could have played a "positive and effective" role in the interests of all Lebanese had it used political rather than military means and produced an "objective" political plan not biased in Israel's favor. He reaffirmed Syria's rejection of bilateral contacts with Israel and its willingness to act within the framework of UN formulas and resolutions, notably Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Syria is eager for peace but also wants to achieve military parity with Israel because a "just" peace is possible only when a "strategic balance" exists in the region. On internal matters, the president said his health is "good" and stated that the three vice presidents were appointed to improve the work performance of Syria's leadership.

Diplomacy — Al-Asad received visiting Libyan Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, who conveyed a message from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, Damascus radio reported. Meanwhile, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam discussed bilateral relations and the international situation during talks in Athens with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, according to Athens radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Saudi Tanker Hit — A Saudi tanker was apparently hit by a missile and is currently "ablaze" in the Gulf 70 miles from Khark Island, Radio Monte Carlo announced, adding that all 27 crew members had been evacuated. AFP, citing Lloyd's of London, said there is no confirmation that the tanker, *Safina al-'Arab*, was hit by a missile.

Iranian Nuclear Bomb — The West German firm Kraftwerke Union (KWU) announced that it will not complete work on Iran's nuclear plant near Bushehr so long as Iran and Iraq are at war, AFP reported. The KWU announcement followed reports published in *JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY* that Iran is likely to have a nuclear bomb within 2 years, AFP added. KWU workers have been in Iran since January preparing a report for the Iranian Government on conditions for resuming construction of one of the two stations in Bushehr, the report disclosed.

Defense Allocation — The Iranian Cabinet allocated 70 billion rials to the Ministries of Defense and of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps over and above allocations granted in earlier sessions with the aim of strengthening the country's defense and funding military operations, Tehran radio announced.

Iraq

Ramadan in Moscow — First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan continued his talks in Moscow, meeting with Nikolay Tikhonov, the chairman of the Council of Ministers, INA reported. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and current issues, foremost among them the Iran-Iraq war. TASS, reporting on the talks, said the two sides "denounced" U.S. efforts to intervene in the Persian Gulf, adding that Ramadan praised Soviet support for the Arab struggle against imperialist "intrigues" and the "encroachments of the USA and Israel" on Arab freedom and independence. INA reports on the Ramadan-Tikhonov talks did not mention Ramadan's criticism of the United States. Ramadan also held talks with Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, on promoting cooperation in economic, commercial, and technical fields, according to INA.

'Arafat Visit — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported, and was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and other officials. According to INA, 'Arafat and 'Aziz later held talks on Iraqi-PLO relations, the Iran-Iraq war, and other issues.

Iran

The United States is violating the Algerian accord and has successfully exerted influence on the Hague Court of Justice to the extent that the court "is guilty of taking sides" and has issued verdicts that violate the Algerian accord and the principles of international law, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio. In the most recent example of this, the court deemed itself competent to review cases brought forward by Iranians with dual nationality, serving as "agents of American influence in Iran," the prime minister stated. He called on Algeria to "fulfill its duties and commitments to preserve justice" and asserted that Iran will make the necessary decisions to safeguard its "financial and spiritual interests" and will resort to any legitimate measures to obtain justice.

Libya

Britain has accepted Libya's request that Saudi Arabia represent Libyan interests in Britain; Libya has agreed to Italy's representing British interests in Libya, AFP reported, citing British official statements. Meanwhile, the Libyan ambassador in Ankara disclosed that Libya has accorded Turkey "full power" to mediate Libya's dispute with Britain, according to AFP.

Saudi-Jordanian Talks

King Husayn returned to Amman after a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he held intensive talks with King Fahd on Arab developments and ways to promote Arab solidarity, Amman radio reported. The Saudi monarch accepted Husayn's invitation to visit Jordan, the radio noted in an earlier report.

Afghanistan

Afghan resistance leaders in Pakistan urged the mujahidin to unite against the Soviet offensive in the Panjsher valley and harass the Soviet-DRA forces, AFP reported. "Reliable" Afghan sources said such calls indicate that, while the valley has not fallen to the attacking forces, the mujahidin there are having "problems," the agency added.

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PLO Praises Egypt on Costa Rica, El Salvador
NC251910 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT
 25 Apr 84

[Text] In a statement distributed by Wafa today, the PLO highly praised Egypt's decision to rupture relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador in protest against the transfer of their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The PLO said that the forthright Egyptian decision reflects Egypt's continuing support for the Palestinian cause and the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 25 Apr
JN251710 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
 25 Apr 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days. He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister; a number of senior Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials; the director and staff of the liberation movements bureau; 'Azzam al-Ahmad, PLO representative in Iraq; and a number of the officers and cadres of the Palestine Liberation Army in Iraq — Al-Karamah forces.

Confers With 'Aziz
JN251925 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening.

They discussed the developing relations between Iraq and the PLO, the situation in the Arab region, the dangers threatening the Palestinian issue, and Zionist attempts to alter the Arab vestiges of occupied Arab Jerusalem. They also discussed the Iranian regime's continued aggression against Iraq. The two sides had identical views on the topics discussed in a brotherly and cordial atmosphere.

'Arafat arrived in Baghdad this afternoon and was received by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Fatah Central Committee Meets in Tunis
GF251925 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT
 25 Apr 84

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee held a meeting in Tunis with Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman. The committee discussed the results of the Jerusalem Committee meetings, held in Fes, Morocco, and the results of the Palestinian meeting held in Algeria — during which an agreement was nailed down on convening an expanded Palestinian meeting in Algiers on 19 May to pave the way for convening the scheduled session of the PNC.

Wafa reported today that the committee also discussed the situations of Palestinian citizens in the occupied Palestinian territories, the practices of the Zionist occupation authorities, and other issues.

Discusses Palestinian Conditions
JN251800 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
 25 Apr 84

[Text] With brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] attending, the Fatah Central Committee discussed in Tunis last night the conditions of the Palestinian masses inside the occupied homeland, and the coercive and arbitrary measures the Zionist occupation authorities are currently taking against them. The committee also discussed the need to initiate an effective move on all levels to bolster our people's steadfastness and to strengthen their heroic resistance against the Zionist occupation.

The committee also discussed the results of the Jerusalem Committee meetings and the Algiers meeting, which included a number of the responsible Palestinian groups. It also discussed matters related to the expanded meeting set on 10 May 1984 by the Algiers meeting, and a number of Arab issues [words indistinct].

BAHRAIN

Crown Prince Receives Pakistan President's Message

GF251645 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Apr (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, crown prince of Bahrain, received here this morning General Faruq Shawkat Khan, the Pakistani president's envoy and governor of Baluchistan Province, who delivered to him a written message from General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, addressed to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, on bolstering bilateral relations and on issues of mutual interest.

Murphy's Tour, Shaykh Zayid's Statement Viewed

GF260718 Manama AL-MAWAQIF in Arabic 23 Apr 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Shaykh Zayid Warns Against the Consequences of the New U.S. Inclination in the Gulf"]

[Excerpts] Political observers' opinions on the goal of the tour that is being made by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, of the Middle East and the Gulf region, have been inconsistent. Mr Murphy is an expert in the affairs of the region and has sufficient experience to help provide him with an accurate account of the current developments in the region. He was the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and he has accurate knowledge of the Arab Gulf states that dates back to 1971. He says he has come to the Gulf in order to reaffirm his relations with his acquaintances and friends and to gain a clear vision of the Gulf viewpoint on bilateral relations and regional issues.

As the United States seeks to obtain additional military facilities, it does not conceal its increasing concern over the U.S. strategic interests which may be subjected to major threats if it is not able to ensure the readiness of its moderate Arab friends, because the United States believes that the Gulf states are unable to protect themselves if a major crisis occurs in the region.

Shaykh Zayid's open message to Washington is a clear expression of the feelings of the Arab leaders and their peoples toward the unbalanced U.S. policy in the region.

This statement has reaffirmed what has been previously said, secretly and openly, by many Arab leaders to many U.S. officials after having been disappointed by the repetitive U.S. stands in support of the Zionist enemy and by the U.S. support for Israel's aggressive policy in the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, the Golan, and Lebanon, and its support for it in international bodies. Some political observers considered this message to be a clear warning to the United States about its policy and its results on the peoples of the region and on the U.S. interests themselves. They also considered it a frank call to the United States to pursue a just policy if it wants to keep its friends who are expecting a just stand from it toward their fateful questions and who expect it not to ignore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

KUWAIT

Issuance of Visas, NOC's Restricted

GF251152 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] The issue of all visitors' visas and No Objection Certificates [NOC's] except those approved by the cabinet has been suspended, a senior Kuwait official said yesterday. Visas for domestic servants had also been suspended, except in emergency cases, the director general of the Nationality, Passport and Residency Department, Yusuf ash-Shimmari, said.

Ash-Shimmari also revealed that doubled police patrols had been ordered to round up domestics who had absconded from their employers.

The number of expatriate workers needed in Kuwait was now being regulated by a permanent committee headed by the under-secretary of the Interior Ministry, Ash-Shimmari said.

The committee includes representatives of the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour, Trade, Industry, and Planning, the municipality and the directorate of nationality, passports and residency.

OMAN

Foreign Minister 'Abdallah Departs on Asian Tour

GF250810 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation left the country this morning for official visits to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore.

Prior to his departure, he made a statement to a radio correspondent in which he said that the visits to these friendly countries are in response to invitations received from their governments and that they are aimed at developing relations between the Sultanate and these countries in all fields to implement the sublime directives of His Majesty Sultan Qabas ibn Sa'id. He added that he will hold talks with officials in the countries he will be visiting on issues of mutual interest, especially on Islamic questions.

QATAR

Shaykh Khalifah Visits Japan, Sees Nakasone, Others

For KYODO accounts of the visit to Japan by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, including his meetings with Emperor Hirohito, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, and Minister of International Trade and Industry Hikosaburo Okonogi, see the Japan section of the 25 April Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

SAUDI ARABIA

Oil Tanker Ablaze in Gulf Northeast of Bahrain

JN261014 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT
26 Apr 84

[Text] Well-informed sources in Bahrain have stated that a Saudi oil tanker is currently ablaze in Gulf waters 100 km from Bahrain's northeastern shores and 70 km from the Iran's Kharq Island. It seems that the Saudi vessel, *Safina al-'Arab*, had been hit by a missile. The source which had fired the missile is not known. All 27 members of the crew have been evacuated from the vessel.

Lloyd's Confirms Explosion

NC261105 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] London, April 26 (AFP) — The Saudi Arabian oil tanker, *Safina al-'Arab*, 350,000 tons, is ablaze 100 kms (62 miles) south of Iran's Khark Island oil terminal in the Gulf, Lloyd's shipping services said today.

The crew had abandoned ship, Lloyd's said. The fire followed an explosion in one of the tanker's starboard holds, but there was no immediate confirmation that the vessel had been hit by a bomb or missile.

The tanker left Bahrain on February 8 for Khark. Its ultimate destination was Penang, Malaysia.

The reports caused consternation in shipping and insurance circles here, where premiums were almost certain to be raised if the tanker was confirmed to have been attacked.

Further Reports on Husayn Visit to Riyadh

Kings Resume Talks

JN251349 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] Riyadh — The Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Saudi side led by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz resumed their talks in Riyadh after the first session of talks which was held last night and lasted until the early hours of this morning. During the session, the two sides reviewed the Arab nation's unprecedented problems.

Their Majesties King Husayn and King Fahd stressed the need to exert all efforts to stop the fragmentation within the Arab nation's ranks and build a unified Arab stand that would enable the nation to surmount its obstacles.

His Majesty King Husayn pointed out that the Arab states must assume their national and pan-Arab responsibility toward the grave dangers.

The summit talks touched on the Israeli danger and its effect on the Arab region, with special emphasis on calling on the states which support Israel to relinquish their strategy that supports Israel in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The two monarchs also discussed the dangers of the Iraq-Iran war, emphasizing the need to stop this war and establish balanced relations between the two Muslim neighbors based on historical rights and good neighborliness that is based on the non-interference of one state in the others' affairs.

Their majesties also reviewed the current developments in the Lebanese arena and stressed that the unified Arab stand will achieve better prospects to save fraternal Lebanon, withdraw the Israeli invading forces from Lebanon, and support Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

On the level of bilateral relations, the two monarchs expressed their complete satisfaction with the fraternal coordination between their two countries.

His Majesty King Husayn invited His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to visit his second country, Jordan. His Majesty King Fahd accepted the invitation and a date will be set at a later time.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Ahmad 'Ubaydat, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn. On the Saudi side, the talks were attended by His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation; His Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; and Shaykh Ibrahim as-Sultan, Saudi ambassador in Amman.

Husayn Departs 25 April

LD251354 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 25 Apr (SPA) — King Husayn of Jordan left Riyadh at 1600 this afternoon at the end of his 2-day visit to the Kingdom. At King Khalid International Airport, he was seen off by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Crown Prince Returns From Pakistan Visit

LD251456 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy premier, and commander of the National Guard, returned to Riyadh at 1415 GMT this afternoon at the end of his 4-day visit to Pakistan.

UAE

Shaykh Zayid Leads Delegation Visit to Kenya

GF251206 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpts] President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan left the country, under the care and patronage of Allah, for Nairobi this morning, on an official visit to Kenya, in response to an invitation from Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi.

The president is being accompanied by an official delegation made up of Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, Supreme Council member and ruler of Umm al-Qaywayn; Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid; Mr Ahmad Khalifah as-Swaydi, representative of the UAE president; Mr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources; Major General Hammudah ibn 'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs; Mr Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Hamid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla; Mr Sa'id ad-Darmaki, protocol director; 'Abdallah an-Nuways, deputy minister of information and culture; Mr Nasir an-Nuways, director general of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development; Mr Khamis ar-Rumaythi, director of the president's office; and Dr 'Izz ad-Din Ibrahim, director of UAE University.

PDRY

YSP Chairman Discusses Inter-Arab, Internal Affairs

GF251630 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 24 Apr 84
pp 18, 19

[Interview with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers by *AS-SIYASAH* correspondent Fathi Sharif — date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Fathi Sharif] Mr Chairman, do you agree with the politicians who believe that the countdown has begun for a serious confrontation of the international powers over the Gulf, particularly since the Iraqi-Iranian war has entered a new stage and could expand further?

['Ali Nasir Muhammad] International imperialism has well-known and proclaimed ambitions in this sensitive region of the world. The imperialist countries, foremost of which is the United States, did not conceal their ambitions when they repeatedly threatened to occupy Arab oil wells in the Gulf and the [Arabian] Peninsula, and when they formed the Rapid Deployment Force to execute this threat. These countries also established bases and deployed military fleets in the waters and the territories of some of these countries. Moreover, they carried out a number of military maneuvers in order to train their forces under the weather conditions of this region.

The policies of the imperialist circles have been moving to ensure the creation of areas of tension and instability in the region and have creating precepts for direct interference in its affairs. In

light of all this evidence of aggression, we can say that the increase or decrease in the imperialist threat to our region depends on the success of the region's countries and peoples in ensuring stability and security, particularly in eliminating the imperialist military presence and solving the regional differences through peaceful and brotherly methods.

[Fathi Sharif] Will you explain further your position on this international dispute? Where do you stand with regard to the positions of Iraq and Iran on the ongoing war?

['Ali Nasir Muhammad] Since the very beginning our country has been opposed to this war. Our country called for ending this war and for solving the differences between the two countries through peaceful dialogue in such a way that guarantees the legitimate rights of the two warring neighbors. This war has inflicted severe losses on the two warring sides. We feel that the continuation of this war will merely multiply the losses and the harm. We look forward to the end of this war, which is one of the most serious sources of tension in our region.

[Fathi Sharif] The position of your country on the theory of Gulf security is subject to questioning by numerous Gulf sides, particularly as Aden is the only Gulf capital which is linked by a joint defense program with the Soviet Union and the Soviet bloc. Can you explain the nature of the alliance between Moscow and Aden and the effect of this on the Gulf security equation and on the existence of a joint security theory among the region countries?

['Ali Nasir Muhammad] It is hard to simply accept what you call the theory of Gulf security, because the security of the Gulf is not a theory to us; it is a vital goal associated with the interests and with the aspirations of the peoples and countries of the region. This matter is also included in the strategic goals of the peoples of the Arab region and on the Arab level as a whole. Therefore, what we need in order to attain the vital goals which concern a group of countries is to reach agreement on common principles that meet vital interests so that these principles attain these goals and do not jeopardize them. From this premise, we do not believe that it is right to arbitrarily separate the security of the Gulf region and of the Arabian Peninsula from the security of the entire Arab homeland. This can be based on the fact that preservation of the national sovereignty, security, and stability of the Arab region is regarded a national need and a strategic Arab goal, which contravenes the principle of converting this great goal into a group of theoretical assumptions for this or that groups of countries. The main enemy of the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples is necessarily the enemy of the Algerian and Kuwaiti peoples, etc., and vice versa.

It is hard to believe that those who supported and provided all forms of absolute political, economic, and military backing for Israel's aggression and barbaric crimes against the Palestinian, Egyptian, Lebanese, Syrian and Jordanian peoples do not also threaten the security and the sovereignty of the Gulf peoples. As even Arab children can confirm through their experience, the Soviet Union is a friend who supports the Arab peoples, their rights, and their issues. The Soviet Union has never occupied an Arab territory or supported an aggression against an Arab people or adopted a position antagonistic to the legitimate Arab issues.

It is hard to believe that the relationship with this friend can effect the security of the Arab homeland in this region or in another region in the Arab arena. We therefore believe that Yemeni-Soviet relations are strategic relations and relations between the Arab countries and the Soviet Union should be reinforced in order to confront the genuine threat to our Arab peoples caused by the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance. It is not in our national interest to try to simplify our view toward the genuine enemy and genuine danger by creating illusions about the dangers of the relations with the Soviet Union — relations which have never been stained by anything that harms the Arab peoples.

[Sharif] How do you view the point of strategic weakness in the stance of the PDRY on international disputes? What are your views on the "points of strength" which you hold as trump cards in the game of regional and international confrontations?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] Our foreign policy does not have points of weakness and points of strength that are unique to us. We are an inseparable part of the Arab homeland, and our foreign policy, which reflects this, is designed to serve our national interests. Therefore, our foreign policy in the Arab and international arenas is designed to serve the national goals and rights of our Arab peoples. We are keen to reinforce the Arab solidarity and to mass the Arab energies in the confrontation of the aggressive challenges which threaten our peoples. We are keen to confront the aggressive challenges that threaten our people and to be able to establish the best relations with the countries and the powers that support and back the Arab issues and rights. We will not ease up in our struggle against the powers that are antagonistic to our Arab peoples and which conspire against our legitimate national rights.

[Sharif] Mr Chairman, do you believe that the Iraqi-Iranian war and the dispute over the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean will lead to a new stage of regional and international alliances? What will be your position with regard to these alliances?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] I noted earlier that the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war will aggravate the tension in the region and provide justification for imperialist military interference in the affairs of the region. Undoubtedly, any development that increases these dangers will reflect gravely on the security and on the sovereignty of the countries and peoples of the region. Therefore, what will be required is a principled, stringent, and nonnegotiable position in order to repulse these dangers. We believe that we cannot exclude the need to confront the large-scale onslaught on our Arab peoples by the imperialist-Zionist alliance. This onslaught has many facets, which are defined according to each course and target. It is designed to restore imperialism to the Arab region and to associate it with the political, military and economic coerciveness of imperialism and Zionism.

[Sharif] The economic and military cooperation agreement between Aden, Ethiopia, and Libya sparked a wave of negative criticism by all Gulf and Arab countries. This agreement was regarded as being in favor of the Soviet Union with regard to the balance in relations and the disputes among the region's countries. Is this tripartite agreement still in effect, or was it frozen

following the latest developments in the region? Have some of its joint programs in the field of military cooperation among the three countries been implemented?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] The joint agreement of friendship and cooperation among our country, Libya, and Ethiopia did not contravene the goal of reinforcing the struggle relationship between the Arab and the African peoples, nor did it contravene unification of their efforts against imperialism and Zionism and in favor of joint cooperation. This goal was asserted by the resolutions of the Arab League and the various Arab summit conferences. Based on this agreement, a lot of joint interests have been satisfied in the framework of the existing relations between our country on one hand and Libya and Ethiopia on the other. We hope to continue our work in this direction in order to attain more benefits for our peoples — bearing in mind that this agreement deals with organizing the relations among the countries that signed the agreement and that it does not threaten any side.

[Sharif] A few years ago you called for a summit of the countries that border the Red Sea in order to map out a defensive strategy against foreign interference. Why didn't this call materialize into a genuine formula? Do you believe that the agreement between Aden and Ethiopia impeded the summit, or are there are other elements which caused that?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] The call we made for liquidating the foreign military presence in the region and making it a region of peace and security is still valid. The assumptions on which the call was based are still pressing and urgent, and we look forward to converting them into a practical formula. We do not believe that the relations between Aden and Ethiopia are responsible for the failure to attain that, because Ethiopia is one of the countries concerned with the security of the Red Sea, the Horn of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Gulf. At the same time, we are ready to take part in any effort designed to reinforce security and stability in the region and to reinforce constructive cooperation among all the region countries on the bases of peaceful coexistence, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and respect for the right of every country to choose its own course of development.

[Sharif] Mr Chairman, do you believe that the Arab Gulf countries are able to protect their security and their land and sea borders on their own and through their political and defense will?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] Several historical experiences have proved that the will of nations is bigger than formulas and ready defense systems. Where issues of national fate, freedom, independence, and national sovereignty are concerned this will become one of the biggest sources of endless self-power, regardless of the power of the enemies. It is enough to point out the lessons learned from the defeat of the U.S. forces in Vietnam in the seventies and their recent defeat in Lebanon in the eighties. The will of the Lebanese people and their national and progressive forces compelled the U.S. forces to withdraw after they failed to seize this will and to suppress the people's aspirations for sovereignty and independence.

When self-will is associated with organized power on the bases of a political and strategic course that distinguishes between the real enemies and friends, then it is possible to face any hostile challenge through awakening the will of nations and their capability to defend their national fate, and by leaning upon the support of true friends who firmly and clearly stand next to their fateful issues.

[Sharif] In your view, what are the means to establish a joint Gulf defense system without seeking the help of foreign forces and fleets?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] The countries of our region can depend on their economic and military capabilities and on our peoples' will for freedom, sovereignty, independence, and progress in confronting any foreign danger which threatens their national interests. Contrary to that, equipping the land, sea, and air with the stationary and mobile imperialist military bases is not a defense system, but is a de facto attack designed for aggression and a direct violation of independent will. As this de facto hostile existence continues, its conflict with the independent will of the people will deepen until the people find themselves faced with a real hostile existence which hides behind the veil of preparations to confront imaginary foreign threats that have no connection to reality.

[Sharif] Mr Chairman, do you expect any expansion of Soviet influence in the Gulf and Middle East region in light of the failure of the U.S. policy in the region, the U.S. retreat, and the failure of U.S. credibility in many of its relations with the moderate countries?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] It is wrong to analyze the issue in terms of a retreat of the U.S. influence and an expansion of the Soviet influence. The Soviets have not had an influence in the region like that to which the imperialist and hostile strategy of the United States and its allies aspire. The whole point is that the Soviet Union in all circumstances firmly supports the Arab issues and rights and provides our peoples with all kinds of support in their effort to achieve their legitimate goals. On the other hand, the U.S. always supports the Zionist enemy and its expansionist and hostile wars, is hostile to our Arab peoples, ignores our legitimate rights in a conspicuous and shameless manner, and tries to impose the imperialist Zionist hegemony on the Arab region through its unsuccessful attempts to impose its capitulatory plans. In our view, not only did the U.S. policy fail to achieve its goals which are hostile to our Arab peoples, but the bets of some Arab sides on the U.S. policy failed as well.

[Sharif] Do you believe that the Gulf countries are trying to politically isolate the PDRY from participating in the strategic Gulf moves on security and military issues? Also, how much economic aid do the GCC countries provide to your country?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] The PDRY's security is part of the security of the Gulf region and the Peninsula and it is not possible to isolate our country from its responsibility and right to participate in the construction of the security and stability of this region, except by eliminating us from the map, and this is conceivable only within a framework of illusions. We feel that our capability to construct our country's security and stability is a contribution

to the construction of the region's security, and we want relations of peace, fruitful cooperation, and mutual respect with the region's countries in order to serve all our peoples' goals and interests. Regarding the last part of your question, our country has bilateral relations with the region's states and has not received any help from the GCC, except for some aid and loans from Kuwait and the UAE.

[Sharif] It is said that the alliance of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front countries also collapsed because of their hesitation and their negative stance with regard to supporting the Palestinian forces in Lebanon during the invasion. Algeria has declared that the role of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front has ended because of the increase in Palestinian, Syrian and Libyan differences and because of the Algerian and Libyan differences.

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front was not established as an alliance that would succeed or fail. It was established as a national necessity to confront and halt the treacherous and adventuresome methods used by As-Sadat, which caused great losses to the national interests of our Arab peoples. Thanks to the establishment of this Front and the steadfastness of the Arab masses, the Arab liberation movements were able to contain and uncover these methods and stop them from being the only means to deal with the Arab causes and rights. On this basis, it could be said that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front did not collapse, and moreover, the defeat inflicted on the U.S. policy and those who wagered on it undoubtedly proved that the method used by the Front is right. We do not exaggerate when we say that the Front's method is no longer the only method in use, but it is the most necessary method in light of the current developments on Arab arena.

[Sharif] In your opinion, what are the mistakes in the Arab policy with regard to resolving the disputes between Arab countries, the Lebanese crisis, and the Iraqi-Iranian war? Has Aden played a neutral role, or has it taken sides in these disputes?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] I previously affirmed our stances on dealing with the differences and the Iraqi-Iranian war. Our country has been against the Iraqi-Iranian war since its beginning and called for ending it through peaceful dialogue. On various occasions our country has also stressed the importance of overcoming Arab differences and mobilizing Arab capabilities to resist the imperialist and Zionist attack, which threatens all our Arab peoples. Our country practically embodied this stance on various Arab differences and played an active role through its various initiatives on overcoming the Arab divisions and disunity through the consolidation of the Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

[Sharif] It is said that your government has reservations on the Syrian stance regarding the differences within the PLO. What are these differences, and can you say that your policy fully supports the Syrian stance on dealing with the Lebanese crisis and the differences with the PLO and its call for replacing Yasir 'Arafat as PLO leader?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] In fact we have strong fraternal relations with Syria and the Palestinian revolution, and Syria's role

and position cannot be ignored in the conflict with the Zionist enemy and the liberation struggle of the Arab Palestinian people. Regarding the disputes within the PLO, we support the maintenance of the organization's unity on the basis of the political program of the revolution and the resolutions of the 16th session of the PNC. I believe that this is the primary responsibility of all the factions of the Palestinian revolution forces. In this regard we have made efforts to secure the unity of the PLO and I believe that with that we did our duty. Regarding the Palestinian leadership, this issue is within the framework of the tasks of the Palestinian revolution, and our only role is to help our Palestinian brothers overcome their disputes and democratically resolve the internal problems of the organization. Certainly we do not conceal our support for Syria's efforts to deal with the Lebanese crisis and for the stance of the Lebanese National Movement and its struggle.

[Sharif] You have said that you exerted efforts to settle the Palestinian differences and that you have played the role of the mediator to settle the differences among the resistance factions. What has been the result of these efforts? Does Aden support the leadership of 'Arafat and the unity of the organization, or do you believe in the necessity of establishing a new Palestinian front to replace the organization?

['Ali Nasir Muhammad] Before the battle of Tripoli last year, Aden hosted a Palestinian meeting in which Fatah, the PFLP and the DFLP participated. During this meeting, an agreement was reached on some of issues which were the bases for the success of the 16th session of the PNC. After that we continued our efforts toward unity in the Palestinian ranks. Within this framework, four Palestinian organizations — the DFLP, the PFLP, the Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party — held a meeting in Aden. Good results were achieved concerning the dialogue with Fatah. After that, the Algiers meeting, which is currently in progress, was agreed upon. A representative of our party is attending this meeting as well as representatives from Algeria, the Lebanese National Movement, and the Palestinian organizations. We hope that a settlement will be reached on the disputed issues.

[Sharif] What is your stand on the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue? Do you support the establishment of a Jordan-PLO confederation?

['Ali Nasir Muhammad] Why is the dialogue between Jordan and the PLO? [sentence as published] We are not against any dialogue that is in accordance with the resolutions of the summits and the meetings of the PNC, that serves the issue of the Palestinian people, and that affirms that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people.

[Sharif] There is a feeling among the political circles which have followed your movements and your political directions since you assumed power in the party and the state that you have flexible ideas and tendencies. Your Excellency, you have taken clear and balanced political steps through your improvement of relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the visits exchanged between Aden and Saudi officials, through your positive movements with regard to relations with the Sultanate of Oman, and through your commitment to normalize the border situation and

stop the military clashes between the two countries. Will you tell us the truth about these steps? What is the future of the relations with Riyadh and Muscat in light of political developments in Aden?

['Ali Nasir Muhammad] Our domestic and foreign policy is based on principles, not on individuals. It does not change according to the players. It is a constant policy which reflects the options of our people and responds to their hopes. This policy is adopted by the party at its general conference and fixed in the party program and resolutions.

[Sharif] Mr Chairman, what are the active political powers within the party and what is their number? Is there any opposition participating in the political and party decision-making process?

['Ali Nasir Muhammad] The Yemeni Socialist Party is considered the leading political organ of the working class and all Yemeni workers. It is also the organizing and administrative framework of the activity of the workers in all aspects of life. It is assisted in this by the people's organizations, which include in their ranks hundreds of thousands of workers, farmers, soldiers, youths, and students. There are also the elected organs in the state, such as the Supreme People's Council and the local people's councils, which play a leading party role in the society. A party like this will win the increasing support and wide acceptance of the people, who regard it the best means to express their class interests, to defend their achievements, and to create a new life for them.

[Sharif] Mr Chairman, there are theoretical issues which conflict to a remarkable extent with the practical policies and moves of the PDRY. For example, your stance on the issue of the Arabism and Arab solidarity conflicts with your sympathy with Iran and against Iraq and with Ethiopia and against Somalia. How do you explain that?

['Ali Nasir Muhammad] Where is this contradiction in our foreign policy? Let me say sincerely that the significant and dangerous incidents in the Arab region which threatened our peoples showed that there is more than one definition of Arab solidarity and that there is more than one definition of Arab unity. In my view, the presence of differences on the concept of Arab solidarity and Arab unity will remain an obstacle to fully achieving Arab solidarity. We favor an Arab solidarity which is based on the protection of the Arab peoples' interests and defense of their security and stability and on the restoration of their usurped rights. This means we must stand against all the hostile and capitulatory plans which the imperialist and the Zionist circles are trying to impose on our Arab peoples. However, any solidarity which allies itself with our enemies is stillborn.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, it is not true that we are supporting one of the disputing sides against the other. Since the outbreak of the armed dispute between the two countries we have adopted an alert and objective stance toward this dispute and have called for end to the war and for a peaceful solution to the dispute. This is the stance which now prevails, because we know that neither Iraq nor Iran are gaining from this war and that the imperialists cannot keep away from a large-scale war like this. The facts have

proved that within the framework of this war and the excuse of confronting the threat of this war's continuation, the U.S. seaborne and airborne forces came to the region and the destructive war continued to destroy the two neighboring peoples. In our assessment, this was one of their goals. Thus, we once again affirm the importance of solving the dispute between Iran and Iraq through peaceful means, removing all U.S. military presence in the region, and eliminating all acts of provocation and terror against the region's peoples.

With regard to the Ethiopia-Somalia dispute, it is no secret that the PDRY has a principled stance which does not change and which is based on solving the dispute through peaceful means. We adopted this stance before the dispute developed into an armed collision. When we discovered that the tension between Ethiopia and Somalia would probably escalate following the victory of the Ethiopian revolution, we did not hesitate to work with the others who are concerned about Somalia and Ethiopia to end the dispute peacefully, without armed collision. In principle, we cannot have a stance which contradicts the basis and principles of international law. We cannot overstep the recognized international documents and agreements, including those related to the rights, sovereignty, and borders of each state. Siding with the Ethiopian rights which are confirmed by the OAU documents does not mean giving up our geographical, historical, and religious identification with the Arab region. It is instead an affirmation that the Arabs do not have expansionist ambitions and is a civilized stance which reflects respect for the documents which organize relations among states. In addition to that, it serves the Arab peoples, who will not profit by being hostile to the Ethiopian revolution.

[Sharif] Egyptian-Arab relations currently seem to be in a stage of pan-Arab considerations, particularly since Husni Mubarak became president of Egypt and placed pan-Arab considerations ahead of Camp David. Egypt even preceded the Arab countries in severing relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica for transferring their embassies to Jerusalem. What is Aden's view of this Egyptian stance?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] We appreciate the struggle of the Egyptian people and are not against them. But we in the PDRY respect the resolutions which have been issued by the Arab summit conferences on the stance and relations with Egypt. Thus, we believe that any future cooperation must be based on a stance adopted by the Arab summit conference.

[Sharif] But what will your stance be if this issue is presented to the forthcoming Arab summit?

[Ali Nasir Muhammad] We shall adopt a stance within the framework of the joint Arab interest and the pan-Arab goals to which we adhere.

Soviet Planning Committee Delegation Arrives

GF251733 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] The Soviet delegation participating in the fourth session of the YAR-USSR Joint Planning Committee arrived in Aden

this morning. The Soviet delegation is led by Comrade (?Merokash), member of the USSR State Planning Committee. The committee will hold its meetings from 25 to 30 April. The delegation was received at the airport by [name indistinct], deputy planning minister, and a number of ministry officials.

Briefs

Ambassador Meets Syrian Vice President — Our ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic, 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman, met in Damascus yesterday with the Syrian vice president, Brother Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah. During the meeting, they discussed fraternal cooperation relations between the two fraternal countries, parties, and people, and the means to develop and strengthen them in various fields to serve the joint struggle for national liberation and social progress. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Apr 84 GF]

YAR

President Salih, Delegation Depart for France

GF260524 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT
26 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, left for Paris at 0415 today, leading a high-ranking delegation on an official visit to the Republic of France that will last for several days. The visit is being made in response to an invitation by French President Francois Mitterrand. During the visit, he will hold official talks on developing bilateral relations and on Arab and international issues that are of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Brussels Meeting

GF251536 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1225 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] San'a', 25 Apr (WAKH) — YAR Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi left for Brussels today on a visit to Belgium in the framework of the moves undertaken by the Arab seven-member committee which stems from the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers meeting that was held recently in Baghdad. Upon departure Dr al-Asabahi noted that the committee will tour six EEC countries in the framework of the efforts being made to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

President Salih Discusses First Term Achievements

GF221652 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 21 Apr 84
pp 10, 11

[Interview with President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by AS-SIYASAH correspondent Fathi Sharif in San'a' — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What were you unable to accomplish during your first term? And what are you the most proud of achieving during the past 4 years?

Answer: First, there is nothing which I planned but could not accomplish. I can assure you that I accomplished everything and succeeded in implementing everything during the first 4 years of my presidency, and there was nothing impossible before me. Secondly, the most important thing which I was able to accomplish during my first term is at the internal level and is represented in accomplishing a revolutionary achievement — the national pact — which embodies the country's political theory and which has been able to offer a solution — the Yemeni way — to all our problems within an objective framework that fits our people's reality, genuineness, and faith. This is in contrast to the past, when solutions were linked to foreign theories and countries that don't express our people's spirit, ambitions, and aspiration for independence and development.

My second accomplishment, in my assessment, was to put an end to segregation and division among the Yemeni people by uniting all the forces in a General People's Conference and, at the geographic and demographic level, by setting up a process of civilization linkup among the various parts of the countries by constructing roads and a communications network, which facilitated movement and transport, and consequently made it possible to convey health, educational, and cultural services to all parts of Yemen. This accomplishment is in fact a confirmation of the national integrity and brings the citizens closer together. Hence, we feel now that the isolation between the Yemeni people and the outside has been nullified. We have become a one country united by a feeling of national responsibility.

Question: What are the most important things you aspire to achieve during your second term of presidential office in the YAR?

Answer: What I truly wish is for our economic programs to succeed in extracting all types of natural resources, such as petroleum, minerals, and iron. This will achieve the true development and progress that will benefit our people and our Arab and Islamic nations. Now, we are preparing to drill new wildcat wells for petroleum, and negotiations are currently taking place on the new agreement with two companies.

Question: Will petroleum alter the social map of Yemen, and will it open the doors of foreign dangers around you?

Answer: I don't believe that dangers will be directed toward Yemen alone. They are directed against all the petroleum countries, and international ambitions never stop. Internally, however, there is bound to be a major change in the social structure, but the change will be in the positive direction.

Question: What are your plans with regard to building a modern Yemeni Army, and are there any specific perils against the establishment of this Army?

Answer: Building the Army is the second principle of our revolution's principles to protect our sovereignty, achievements, and independence. We have made good progress in building this army, in arming it, and in modernizing it. At this stage, we are still developing it in quantity and in quality in accordance with the changes in the region and in the peninsula and Gulf region in particular. Dangers continue to threaten the security of the

Arab nation and the Gulf region, and attempts to influence our beliefs and undermine our independence continue. Therefore, the Arab nation should provide itself with a defense force that is capable of protecting its territory and airspace. We are part of the Arab nation, and we are not the only ones who aspire to build a strong army in the region. I did stress in 1978 that our Army is for defending our independence and sovereignty and that it will not be an army of aggression against any other country.

Question: Your Excellency, how do you, from the geopolitical position of the YAR, view the dangers that are approaching the Gulf and threatening its security in the upcoming stage? And do you consider what is taking place now, especially in the arena of the Iraqi-Iranian war, the start of a transformation in the balance of political and military powers in the Gulf and Indian Ocean region, and do you feel the existence of any thing that may disturb Gulf security?

Answer: Security of the region and Arab security in general are inseparable. This is our view of the nature of the dangers that threaten the region and the entire Arab nation. This of course does not mean that each country should not have its own calculations on this matter and its own assessments of the possible dangers. It seems obvious that the Iraqi-Iranian war is one of the escalating centers of danger which is threatening the region and the Arab and Islamic nations, especially because this losing war is continuing while the Israeli enemy is carrying out aggression against the Arab nation to implement its expansionist policy in the Arab land. There is no doubt that what is going on is directly related to the balance of powers.

Question: It is certain that the Gulf countries have offered much in order to stop the war and reestablish the balance of power in the region. Do you believe that what these countries have offered so far is sufficient or that they have to play a new role? And what is the nature of this role, in your assessment?

Answer: We are grateful for the efforts exerted by our brothers in the GCC countries. However, as an Arab nation we have to continue the efforts to stop this war which is destroying the resources and abilities of two fraternal Muslim nations and which is threatening the security and safety of the region and the security and safety of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Question: Can we understand the nature of the role and the political and military stand of the YAR toward the threats and dangers to the Gulf area? Your Excellency the President, do you feel that these serious phenomena can affect the political situation inside the YAR and the nature of the political alliances among San'a', the states of the region, and other countries of the world?

Answer: On the basis of our national obligations, our adherence to the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab defense agreement, we consider that any threat to any Arab country is a threat to our country, because we are an inseparable part of the Arab nation, and we view any aggression against any Arab country as an aggression against the YAR. We must stand side by side with our brothers so as to confront any aggression, using all our capabilities if necessary.

Question: There are serious steps within the framework of the GCC countries for political, economic, and military coordination. Is there any dialogue or official and unofficial meetings between the GCC countries and the YAR for completing the circle of the Gulf cooperation? Or do you feel that the road for this dialogue has not yet been opened? Have the relations between San'a' and the GCC countries gone beyond the realm of bilateral relations yet?

Answer: We have close fraternal relations with the GCC countries. These relations are constantly developing because of the anxiousness of us all to develop bilateral relations. There is economic cooperation between us and the GCC countries.

Question: YAR-Saudi relations constitute a fundamental cornerstone in the theory of Gulf security. How do you now view these relations politically and militarily?

Answer: We have special relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all fields of cooperation. The coordination, which is growing daily, imparts increased strength and firmness to our close historical and fraternal relations.

Question: The financial and economic bottlenecks in most of the Gulf states — especially in view of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war — the fall in oil prices, and the limiting of oil production have directly affected economic cooperation between San'a' and these countries. What is the extent of the effect of this economic crisis upon you now? What are the alternatives measures that have been proposed by your government in San'a' to face such a crisis?

Answer: Undoubtedly, all these factors do have an effect on the Gulf, especially on the development programs in our country. We appreciate these circumstances and the financial and economic bottlenecks and we thank the Gulf countries for their generous aid to us — the above-mentioned difficulties notwithstanding — particularly their assistance in rebuilding the areas stricken by earthquakes. We cannot do without the aid of our fraternal countries, for just as a man relies on his brother, similarly, every Arab country relies on the other Arab countries.

Question: Mr President, what is the result of the efforts which you conducted personally to heal the rift among the Palestinian organizations? Do you believe that the differences and clashes which occurred in Tripoli and afterward among the Palestinian organizations are of a kind to which new solutions can be found?

Answer: The Yemeni efforts are still continuing and the differences among the brothers cannot be impossible to resolve, but they require flexibility and require that all resort to reason and view objectively the reasons which led to these differences. We look with optimism to what is happening now and to the efforts exerted by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Question: Through your open and continuing discussions with Yasir 'Arafat, is it possible for us to know your stand on Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] ideas and proposals? Could we also ask Your Excellency what is required of the Palestinian revolution and its conflicting leaders at this stage?

Answer: The side which has the right to comment in such a case is the Palestinian side. Our country's stand is clear and fixed on the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian people, and its revolution until victory is achieved, God willing. However, what is required of the brothers in the Palestinian revolution in all its groups is to be concerned, more than at any time in the past, about their cohesion and the unity of the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and to preserve, with all their strength and efforts, this great political and revolutionary achievement.

Question: The state of conflict in Lebanon and the intervention of all the Arab and international political powers in this conflict have created new alliances in the Arab region. Where does San'a' stand on these alliances? Do you respond to these new change factors in the region, or do you reject them?

Answer: We are not with the policy of alliances inside the Arab arena, because that does not mean anything except more tearing apart of the ranks of the Arab unity and the creation of warring factions. With regard to the Lebanese problem, we have stressed repeatedly that the solution is in the hands of the Lebanese brothers and no one else. We are with them and with the unity of Lebanon, its Arabism, its sovereignty, and its independence.

Question: Does Your Excellency believe that the 13th Arab summit will be held soon, especially after the invitation of the Arab foreign ministers to meet on 15 May to discuss this possibility, and do you see that the exceptional Arab circumstances which are prevailing in the region force the holding of the summit or force its postponement? Finally, what is the issue which San'a' considers the first priority to be raised at the Arab summit, if it wants the summit to be held?

Answer: We are for convening the Arab summit at the time to be agreed upon and under the conditions which will guarantee its success in tackling the questions that it will discuss.

Question: What is your government's stand on the question of amending the Arab League Charter, and if the answer is approval, what are the items you want to submit, along with the special article on passing decisions by majority rather than unanimous vote? What are the reasons for the failure in the role of the Arab League at this stage?

Answer: Our opinion is fixed and authenticated in the Arab League, and the proposed amendments do not only concern the article that was referred to; they also concern a number of other articles that require reconsideration.

Question: How do you view the change in the Egyptian policy toward Arab causes after President Mubarak suggested that the whole game is in the hands of the Arabs? Do you concur with Arab leaders and politicians that Egypt's return to the Arab ranks is a step forward in facing the challenges and threats to the Arab region?

Answer: Apart from Egypt's position and its military, political, and human significance, its return to the Arab ranks is tied to a resolution to be made by the Arab summit when the Egyptian leadership has taken steps to bring about this return.

Question: Mr President, do you believe that the Red Sea security is now being threatened or collapsing, in view of the continued conflicts around it, and will the coups in the neighboring African countries involve the region in new conflicts?

Answer: Such threats diminish the understanding and cooperation of the countries bordering the Red Sea and their awareness of the nature of the threats which menace their security. Out of our awareness of these threats, we emphasize the need to keep the Red Sea removed from all kinds of international conflicts and all kinds of foreign military presence as a main guarantee to keep it stable and secure. We always call for cooperation and understanding to dominate among these countries.

Question: Mr President, political and economic observers sense some problems and difficulties facing your country. Can you tell us about the most important of these difficulties?

Answer: The economic difficulties you are referring to are not afflicting our country alone. They are an international phenomenon affecting all countries of the world, including rich and advanced countries. Our economic difficulties are not new, but were inherited by our country from the age of darkness, backwardness, and insolation. Nevertheless, we are waging a major battle with the sincere efforts of all our struggling Yemeni people who are aspiring for freedom, democracy, and justice to overcome all the traces of the imam's era. Through these efforts, our people have achieved, and continue to achieve major victories in development and economy.

Question: Do you feel, Mr President, that your country is facing an "Arab isolation," which prevents financial and economic aid from reaching you because rich Arab countries are preoccupied with their crises and financial difficulties?

Answer: Quite the opposite. Our country is now more than ever feeling the depth of its affiliation with the Arab world and is living all its events and is responding to everything taking place and is influencing it and being influenced by it. Besides, it is now tied through developing relations with all world countries out of its understanding of the issue of human cooperation and coexistence of all peoples and out of our people's commitment to their high interest.

Question: What are the difficulties still obstructing the unity between the two parts of Yemen? What are the concessions each part will make to realize the goal of the two peoples? Will unity be achieved through confederation or federation?

Answer: If there are difficulties, they are the result of traces of the defunct era of imams in the north and the hated colonialism in the south. If the imamship and colonialism created that state of division, then our masses in the two parts have been able, after

the victorious 26 September Revolution and the glorious 14 October Revolution, to make remarkable steps forward to reaching unity and remove all traces of imamship and colonialism.

Out of our conviction that the Yemeni people are indivisible, and out of the joint understanding of the leaderships of the two parts and their awareness of the importance and inevitability of the reunion of the homeland, great efforts have been made and remarkable steps have been taken to achieve many unity accomplishments, represented in joint agreements and development, economic, and political institutions. There have been many unity projects in all fields, particularly the constitution of the one state — a great accomplishment which guarantees that the source of laws and legislation is the righteous religion of Islam.

Out of the conviction that Yemeni unity is the unity of masses, not that of the "authorities," we are making efforts with our brothers in the southern part of the homeland to prepare the solid ground for unity and prepare the masses to obliterate traces of the past and achieve the unity they are seeking and to make it strong, deeply rooted, and unshakeable.

Question: Do you believe that the establishment of the General People's Congress represents a single comprehensive party that includes all the political powers and differing groups? Is it the best system for the present time? And do you expect the formation of parties in the future?

Answer: The General People's Congress is not a party, it is a political administration that is responsible for taking care of the political activity, and expressing the popular will of all the masses of our nation. It is truly considered the birth of a new era for our struggling people who aspire for freedom and democracy and who are anxious to preserve their national integrity through the establishment of this strong edifice which comprises all the people's groups within one framework. With the General People's Congress, the masses of our people have expressed the most noble and most sublime meanings of democracy, and all the children of our nation now practice political and democratic action through this great achievement.

The formula for the national pact was approved by the General People's Congress on 24 August 1982 and has become the framework of intellectual unity around which the children of our nation meet. The people, who form the basis for all political practices, have agreed on it and have adhered to it. Thus, political activity will be within its framework and within the limitations of its principles and bases, because it is the appropriate formula that stems from our circumstances to reinforce our national unity and is an important fruit derived from the experience of political action in the Yemeni arena with the aim of reinforcing the national unity with the unity of ideology and political administration.

Mubarak, Sudan's Numayri Make Telephone Contact
 NC260414 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA) — Telephone contact has taken place between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President Ja'far Numayri, during which President Numayri conveyed his heartfelt congratulations on the 2d anniversary of the Sinai liberation.

The two presidents exchanged views on a number of topics that concern both countries.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Views Elections
 PM251525 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
 19 Apr 84p 3

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood leader 'Umar at-Talmasani by ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What does the Muslim Brotherhood today represent for religious trends in Egypt?

Answer: It is wrong for anyone to think that the Muslim Brotherhood is a minority in Egypt. Every Muslim [religious] group in Egypt started by learning the principles of the Muslim Brotherhood, yet later they drifted either to the right or the left. But they all began in the Muslim Brotherhood school and all the Islamic groups you see are closer to the Muslim Brotherhood than to anyone else.

If they [not specified] say that we are few, it is all right with us and if they say that the Islamic groups have broken away from us, let them be so. It would be enough to go to France, Germany, England, or the United States to see the extraordinary large number of Muslim Brotherhood members. They are pursuing higher studies — for their master's and doctor's degrees — throughout all the world. Our "shortcoming" is that we do not resort to terror or violence, and that we are poor and do not have a medium to publicize ourselves abroad. If we had money we would have set up radio stations and respectable newspapers abroad.

We receive money from no one and we challenge anyone who says that he has given us financial aid. We speak only the truth.

Question: Do you believe the Muslim Brotherhood represents a power with regard to the ballot box, given the fact that the other Islamic groups refuse to deal with this box?

Answer: I would like to reassure you that all the Islamic groups this time will march to the ballot boxes. If proper election procedures are followed then the elections will produce results unlike anything expected.

Six parties will fight in the elections, however only the Al-Wafd Party will enjoy the cooperation of the Islamic groups. If the right procedures are followed and the instructions of the president of the republic regarding total neutrality [of the authorities] are followed, then the Al-Wafd Party, with the help of the Muslim

Brotherhood and the Islamic groups, will win a landslide. But if other elements intervene with the aim of bringing pressure on the voters, then there is nothing we can do.

Question: Advocates of secularism say that secularism is not a denial of religion but placing religion above cheap political maneuvers. They believe that religion is for God, and the country is for everybody. How does the Muslim Brotherhood's supreme guide understand secularism?

Answer: In fact, secularism does not deny religions. What denies religions is communism. Secularism calls for separating religion from the state; it gives you the freedom of belief (Muslim, Jew, Druze, Communist). You are free in what you believe and it does not interfere with you. It deals with positive laws and constitutions derived from various sources. This is how I see secularism.

We for our part denounce this because the source of our legislation is our Islamic creed. Any source of legislation, rulings, worship, and dealings based on other than this source does not concern us and we absolutely do not recognize it.

We cooperate only with the Al-Wafd Party and all the world knows that [Al-Wafd Secretary General] Fu'ad Saraj ad-Din declared in the press that the Al-Wafd is not secular and supports Article Two of the Constitution which stipulates that Islam is the principal source of legislation.

Therefore, our cooperation with the Al-Wafd Party should not be described as an alliance between those who believe in Islam and the secularists because Al-Wafd is no longer secularist. The Al-Wafd leader has made a statement to this effect. The Al-Wafd Party now includes many leading Muslims and ulema.

They also blame us for cooperating with Al-Wafd while it includes Copts. The answer to such a claim is to go back to the history of the Prophet, God's prayers be upon him, and the Muslim caliphs and commanders who used to cooperate with the Jews and the Christians. There used to be Copt ministers in the Fatimid state and non-Muslim ministers in the Abbasid state in Baghdad.

There should be no clash or conflict between the Muslims and the Christians for it would show that the Egyptian people is disunited. The late imam [founder of the Muslim Brotherhood] was anxious to unite the nation. When he set up the Muslim Brotherhood Political Committee he included in it two Copts, Wahib Duss and Akhnukh Louis Akhnukr. This is not at all contrary to the shari'ah. We should seek the help of every expert.

If we could have enticed U.S. and Soviet space scientists to come and work with us, we would have done so and would have paid them billions so that Islam might become stronger and be able to resist its enemies, and so that we would not be lagging behind.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Action in UK Embassy Attacked

*PM251418 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 21 Apr 84
p 8*

[Ibrahim Sa'dah Article: "Al-Qadhdhafi's Barbarism"]

[Excerpts] What Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has done and is doing these days is a crime against all Arabs and not just the Libyan people alone. Not satisfied with gagging his people, cutting out their tongues, suppressing their views, and throwing thousands of innocent Libyan citizens in jail, he went further by resorting to terror and crime against the Libyans opposing him abroad.

What happened in London last week, when Al-Qadhdhafi ordered his embassy staff in the British capital to open machine gun fire on Libyan demonstrators is neither strange nor unexpected from this man, who respects no international laws nor abides by any logic, custom, or principle. Terror is his covenant, murder is his hobby, treachery is his principle, and assassination is his only means of getting rid of his opponents.

The Libyans who have fled from his injustice, treachery, and terror and lived abroad in Europe and the United States have been dismayed by what is happening in their country and to their people. They resorted to a civilized method of expressing their rejection and anger. Some of them gathered outside the Libyan Embassy in London and were protesting against the terrorist regime in Libya and demanding freedom, justice, security, and safety for their countrymen in Libya. This is what students, refugees, and those who flee from terror of various nationalities do.

In democratic countries, particularly in Britain, peaceful demonstrations are respected. A permit for them is issued by the Home Office, and police protection is provided for the demonstrators. This was what happened with the Libyan citizens in London. They decided to stage a demonstration to march to their coun-

try's embassy in London in protest against terror, coercion, tyranny and repression of freedom in their country.

The demonstrators, the police, and British citizens who were in front of the embassy were surprised by a hail of bullets fired indiscriminately from the embassy windows, killing or wounding several people. Thus the peaceful demonstration turned into a one-sided battle, and unarmed demonstrators became the targets. A British policewoman was killed and other innocent people were wounded.

Action was bound to be taken against this criminal terror by people carrying diplomatic passports but failing to respect their diplomatic status. It was decided to treat them as terrorists, killers, and highway bandits who should be arrested and expelled to their country, having proven themselves unfit to live in a civilized society that respects the citizen and his rights.

Al-Qadhdhafi's reaction to this was just as barbaric as his reaction to the peaceful demonstration by the Libyan citizens who have fled from his oppression, terror, and crimes. He ordered his embassy staff in London to stand fast, to refuse to leave the embassy, and to resist by force any entry into the embassy, even if they were all to be killed by British bullets. What is worse, he decided to exploit the presence of some 8,000 British civilians — diplomats and experts — in Libya by terrorizing them and using them as hostages.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has proven time and time again that he is a man without logic, principle, or brain. His only objective is to terrorize the whole world, out of belief in his power and his talents and because he insists on his leadership and clings to his views and the desire to rule the whole world.

May God help the Libyan people who have been afflicted by this ruler, his terror, his crimes, and his madness.

'Official Source' Denies Information on Gulf Raid

*JN261229 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT
26 Apr 84*

[Text] In Baghdad, an official source has stated that he has no information that the Iraqi Air Force this morning carried out raids against naval targets in the Gulf.

Iraq had previously announced that the area surrounding Khark Island is a prohibited zone.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,446 - 25 April

*JN251635 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Communique No 1,446 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 25 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The triumphant forces of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah are continuing their brave operations at the front against the regime of rancor and charlatanism in Iran. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our daring Air Force pilots today attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our forward units east of Basra, in the northern sector of the front, and important military targets deep inside enemy territory scoring very effective, direct hits. Our pilots returned to their bases safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

2. Using various weapons, one of our forward units pounded enemy vehicles and engineering equipment east of Basra. Our unit destroyed three vehicles and two excavators.

In another area of the same sector, one of our combat patrol units destroyed one hardware stockpile and captured a number of various serviceable enemy weapons.

3. One hardware stockpile was destroyed in the central sector of the front.

4. The criminal Iranian regime last night and today shelled Basra, Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, Zurbatiyah, Khurmali, and their environs with heavy artillery.

The savage shelling martyred 1 civilian and injured 13 others, including 7 children, and damaged 9 houses, 1 civilian car, 1 hotel, and 1 restaurant in Basra; destroyed 1 house and damaged 2 elementary schools in Mandali; destroyed 1 house in Ash-Shihabi; and damaged a number of civilian establishments in Zurbatiyah and Khurmali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 April 1984

Iranian Escalation of War Linked to Economic Problems

*GF250908 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT
23 Apr 84*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: The Iranian rulers are gradually escalating the war they imposed against Iraq. In fact, they seem eager to prepare for prolonging the unfortunate fighting. They are delivering speeches which harp on their intention to occupy Iraq and claim that the future attacks they have organized will be decisive.

Both the world and the people of Iraq know well that the impostors in Tehran fabricate such empty claims before every offensive against Iraq with a view to misleading the Iranian people and the Iranian Army. Nevertheless, their attacks have been repulsed by the might of the magnificent and heroic Iraqi Armed Forces. This reality applies to all the attacks they have launched against Iraq. Although this has been denied by the Iranian rulers, military observers in the world have confirmed it several times.

The Iranian Army is gradually weakening and Iran's losses in terms of men and materiel after each attack is assuming horrifying proportions. For example, during the second attack on Basra, a total of 80,000 men of the aggressive Khomeyni forces were either killed or wounded or taken as prisoners of war by Iraq's heroic troops. Apart from this, dissatisfaction and mutiny have been observed among the ranks of the aggressive Iranian regime after each attack. Thus, Iran has nothing to gain from the prolongation of an inauspicious and costly war by the war-mongering mullahs. It is only the crazy Iranian rulers who stand to gain from the prolongation of the war. In continuing the fighting, they wish to consolidate their oppressive rule on the Iranian people.

One of the reasons for the eagerness of the confused mullahs to occupy the Iranian people with the war is that they wish to divert the people's attention from the economic problems prevailing in the country. But, of course, the Iranian people are gradually becoming aware of the disgusting policy pursued by the Khomeyni regime and are rising to oppose it. They are organizing demonstrations in Iranian cities and towns demanding an end to the war.

However, the reactionary mullahs, who know nothing else but oppression, torture, and dictatorship, are pursuing a very ugly policy against those who oppose the war. The mullahs are collecting poor people from universities, schools, and factories and forcing them to go to the battlefronts under the threat of revolution guards. In addition to this state of affairs and the military misfortunes, Iran is faced with economic crises and other problems in every domain of daily life.

Undoubtedly, the fate of the Iranian regime, which currently exists in such an impasse, will be nothing else but destruction.

France's Mauroy Praises Government's Stand on War

JN250815 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0552 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA) — French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy has praised Iraq's positive stands that call for ending the Iraqi-Iranian war peacefully.

In a statement published in the magazine *ALIF BA'* here today, Mauroy appreciated Iraq's response to all the international and regional resolutions and mediations that seek a peaceful end to the conflict with Iran. He said that these Iraqi stands stem from a high feeling of responsibility.

He stressed that France is eager to maintain peace in this sensitive area, indicating that his country is always seeking a peaceful solution to this war. Mauroy pointed out that the Iraqi-French relations are relations of friendship and work, adding that there is a sincere desire for continuous and comprehensive cooperation.

AR-RA'Y Reports Oil Trade Agreement With Iraq

JN241420 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic

24 Apr 84 pp 1, 23

[Text] Baghdad, (PETRA) — Jordan and Iraq yesterday signed a new oil agreement. This falls within the framework of mutual trade cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement was signed for Jordan by Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of trade, industry, and tourism, and for Iraq by Qasim Ahmad Taqi, minister of oil.

The agreement provides that fraternal Iraq will export quantities of Iraqi oil to Jordan. In exchange, Jordan will export food supplies and provide the necessary transportation facilities for fraternal Iraq.

Dr al-'Anani told the PETRA correspondent in Baghdad that the agreement will increase the current trade between the two fraternal countries. He also pointed out that he held contacts with the Iraqi ministers of industry and minerals, light industries, labor, trade, and oil on all aspects of cooperation in trade and the exchange of expertise in the fields of industry and petroleum between Jordan and Iraq.

Dr al-'Anani affirmed that his visit to fraternal Iraq resulted in an agreement on the joint company to be established. He said it was agreed that the Iraqi Ministry of Trade will dispatch a technical team to Jordan to undertake the necessary technical studies for the establishment of this company, which will specialize in the industrialization of Jordanian agricultural products, turning them into canned foodstuffs and marketing them in the two countries. Dr al-'Anani recalled that the agreement to establish the Joint Iraqi-Jordanian Industrial Company was initiated in 1980.

King Husayn Returns From Saudi Arabia*JN251642 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Excerpt] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland this evening after a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he held intensive talks with His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on the latest developments in the Arab arena and the means for achieving Arab solidarity.

Earlier this afternoon, his majesty had held a 2-hour closed meeting with the Saudi monarch following the open session which was attended by members of the two sides.

Talks To Revive Solidarity*JN251817 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Bilateral talks between His Majesty King Husayn and the Saudi monarch began in Riyadh yesterday. These talks dealt with various current developments in the Arab arena, particularly the Palestinian question, the Iraq-Iran war, the Lebanese crisis, and the convening of the next Arab summit.

King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia comes within the context of the efforts undertaken by Jordan on an Arab level to reach an Arab position able to deal with the issues and problems obstructing progress.

The challenges and dangers facing the Arab nation make it necessary for the leaders of this nation to exert the maximum effort to deal with these challenges and dangers in the spirit of historical responsibility entrusted to Arab leaders.

The current Arab situation, as admitted by both friend and foe, is not at its best. We can even say that the situation is lukewarm, thus causing regional efforts to concentrate on secondary issues that do not serve the urgent causes of the nation.

The Arab cause, which has been under discussion for more than a quarter of a century, the Palestinian question, is still corroding daily due to aggressive Israeli practices in the face of which the Arabs are helpless because of the painful splits in the Arab arena.

The Iraq-Iran war, which has entered its fourth year, is bleeding Arab efforts in fraternal Iraq, without the required support on the pan-Arab level to end Iran's expansionist ambitions on Iraq's territory.

The Lebanese crisis, which has entered its tenth year, is destroying the Lebanese structure from within in an unprecedented manner in the region's history, while Israel utilizes Arab weakness and disunity to chop off wide areas of southern Lebanon — and is still present militarily in those areas without fraternal Lebanon finding pan-Arab support that would end its long darkness.

In the face of these urgent pan-Arab issues, the Jordanian leadership had to move with its Arab brothers. King Husayn sent messages to some Arab leaders and visited others in an attempt to heal the wounds in the Arab fold and to unify their ranks to face the challenges and dangers that surround the Arab nation in its wide homeland.

Jordan does this in the belief that finding Arab solutions for Arab problems is better than waiting for those solutions to come from the outside, because these, at their best, will not be in the Arabs' interest.

The Riyadh meeting is meant to serve the revival of Arab solidarity and to seek dealing with urgent Arab problems and issues which are eroding Arab existence daily. We hope that the efforts of Arab leaders will unite to find a positive solution for the current state of affairs, and will reach a unified Arab position that will be able to deal effectively with issues concerning the Arab world.

AR-RA'Y on Jordanian Role*JN250933 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0510 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "The Jordanian Role in the Arab Arena" *AR-RA'Y* says: The visit of King Husayn and his accompanying delegation to Saudi Arabia yesterday, and his majesty's talks with the Saudi king and senior officials in that fraternal country emphasize the continuous, active Jordanian role, which follows up on developments and works for crystallizing a unified Arab view of these developments as a prelude for desired joint Arab action.

Undoubtedly, these developments, including the dangers resulting from Iranian insistence on continuing the war against fraternal Iraq, the collapse of U.S. credibility in the area, the escalation of Israeli acts of aggression on the land and holy places in the occupied territories, and the strong call for returning Egypt to the Arab fold, are prominent issues which cannot be delayed. They need a unified Arab stand that places pan-Arab interests above all other considerations.

Therefore, speeding up the next Arab summit and the good preparations for this summit are two very important matters which will enable the Arabs to organize their march and define the steps and directions of this march.

AR-RA'Y adds: The current phase through which the Arabs are passing cannot tolerate further delay in action or await solutions from others. Past experiences have proven that the Arab hand, before any other, is the one that should take the initiative and activate the issue.

Otherwise, the Arabs will get nothing but statements or false initiatives. This is what the Jordanian role is concentrating on in the Arab arena. Positive interaction with this role is the pan-Arab responsibility of all Arab leaders.

U.S. Claims on Combatting Terrorism Viewed*JN251126 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Apr 84 pp 1,25*

[Article entitled "Combat or Monopoly" in the "Opinion" column signed by "Muti"]

[Text] From time to time, the United States attacks what it terms "international terrorism." Recently, however, it has been more specific. The United States now threatens to use economic sanctions against any eastern bloc country that supports what it terms Palestinian terrorism!

Since identifying terrorism and the countries behind it is a complicated matter on which there can be no hard and fast rules, the United States has decided to unleash the sword of "political terrorism" against those who refuse to support its grand designs.

It is not difficult to detect the Zionist hand behind all this. Zionism has never ceased its defamation campaigns against the USSR and its allies for supporting the Arabs in the Middle East question. In fact, the lies disseminated by the Zionist propaganda media about ill-treatment of Jews in the USSR is part of these campaigns.

Had the United States gotten rid of Zionist influence and viewed matters in their true perspective, it would not have ventured far away, but would have repeated what came in Job's Chapter in the Old Testament; namely, the root of the matter is here with me.

Indeed, the root of international terrorism is in the United States, and the reasons for Palestinian struggle are also there. Therefore, the more the United States talks about the USSR and its allies, the more it exposes its failure internationally.

There is no such thing as terrorism for the sake of terrorism. There are only peoples demanding respect for their rights and honor. The United States has chosen wittingly, or unwittingly through Zionist influence, to stand in the forefront against the aspirations of these peoples. Since the United States is a military power that cannot be faced with conventional weapons — tank

versus tank and plane versus plane — these peoples have no other recourse except this type of struggle, which the United States and Israel call terrorism. At any rate, this is not the first time the small have not abided by the rules of the game against the big and tried instead to strike with any weapon within their reach. The saying by the Arab poet that the mosquito can bleed the lion's eye, and the saying by the Persian poet As-Sa'di that you must fear he who fears you, even if he were a fly and you were an elephant, have been proven right in many cases.

Many nations gained their rights through this unconventional weapon.

Israel itself was established as a result of terrorism against the British and the Arabs. It sank knee-deep in Arab blood with U.S. weapons and funds. Under the strong U.S. umbrella, Israel carried out massive acts of terrorism against the Arab states. In fact, a type of rancorous Zionist terrorism which even the Jews themselves call black terrorism due to its sheer brutality, has emerged inside Israel. This is the terrorism pursued by Rabbi Kahane and his Kach group against defenseless Arabs. Now the United States wants to protect this terrorism by throwing another cordon around it called political terrorism against the whole world. World Jewry, backed by the United States, want to monopolize terrorism, not combat it, in the hope of achieving the objective to which Adolf Hitler referred in *Mein Kampf* when he said: Force and terrorism are the easiest weapons with which to conquer the mind.

It seems that the failure of the Hitlerite theory has not discouraged the United States and Israel. Both of them believe in the possibility of achieving this objective by more force and terrorism.

It is understood that monopoly is part of the U.S. economic system. But this commodity cannot be monopolized because it exists in boundless quantities like water and air. The remedy, however, is easily attainable if the United States is indeed ready to tackle the real cause and root of the problem. Unfortunately however, it is not ready.

Al-Jumayyil Charges Karami With Forming Government**Official Statement Issued**

NC260935 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0921 GMT
26 Apr 84

[Text] A short while ago President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil designated Rashid Karami to form a new government. President al-Jumayyil held a meeting with Prime Minister Karami at 0915 today. The meeting is still continuing.

The Directorate General of the Presidential Office issued the following statement about the designation. The statement was read by Joseph Juraysati, director general of the President's Office:

[Begin recording] Following his consultations with the Chamber of Deputies on the formation of a new government, his excellency the president has decided to charge His Excellency Prime Minister Rashid Karami with the formation of the government. [end recording]

Consultations Begin Immediately

NC261118 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1010 GMT
26 Apr 84

[Text] At 0915 today, President Amin al-Jumayyil met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami following Karami's arrival at the presidential palace aboard a military helicopter. After the meeting, which ended at 1140, Prime Minister Karami made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, first of all we would like to congratulate you on your designation. Yesterday, you said in your statement that you discussed a work program the outline of which has been discussed several times before. Since the designation was made today, can you give us the broad outlines of the work program you talked about?

[Karami] A believer must submit to his fate. As for private and public affairs, we must submit to what duty dictates with regard to the homeland and the people. Otherwise, I would not have accepted this difficult task. As a result of the consultations he made, his excellency the president today charged me with the task of forming a government of national unity. I accepted thankfully and decided to undertake this responsibility, imploring God to grant me success in achieving the aspirations of every Lebanese citizen for himself, his people, and his country. Following the bitter trials we have experienced, it is time we repudiate hatred and fanaticism and cooperate together for the sake of rescuing Lebanon. Our love must be embodied in our attitude and our actions. We have had enough destruction and devastation. From today onward, we must start dealing with our problems and issues in complete cooperation and we must translate our love for Lebanon into positive, constructive, and productive work. This requires a comprehensive workshop for which all the Lebanese must be mobilized. Therefore, we must also set our weapons aside in order to guarantee security. Whoever has fought out of his conviction that he was serving his country and

his principles — the present situation demands he change his way of thinking from fighting to construction, from hatred to love, and from war to peace. Subsequently, this must prompt us to ensure liberties and reassurance, to rebuild our society and economy, and to provide the services that will fulfill the aspirations of the citizen in our country, Lebanon.

To sum up, the south, the reforms, and the provision of security to all is, in brief, the government's program. The most important thing is to rehabilitate and heal ourselves. The purification of the hearts is the basic deed without which we cannot attain the basic objective; namely, the unity of the people, the institutions, and the land.

Therefore, we call on all our brother citizens — everywhere and from every affiliation — to overcome their differences so that we can pool our efforts for a reconstruction that benefits everyone. It is through justice and equality that Lebanon can be rebuilt and can regain its security. In order to emerge from the darkness and isolation, we should have the electricity network rehabilitated and the ports and airport reopened. We should also return all the displaced to their homes and areas and stop the problem of kidnappings. These things, taken together, furnish the true guarantee for the resumption of normal life. We pray God to grant us success.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, when will you start your parliamentary consultations? When do you expect the new government to be formed?

[Karami] Naturally, I will immediately proceed with my customary visits to the former prime ministers. I hope to finish these visits by the end of the day. I have already contacted Speaker Kamil al-As'ad in order to arrange for the parliamentary consultations. These consultations will start tomorrow at 1000 and last until 1130 — the time of the Friday prayers — and will be resumed in the afternoon according to an agenda that Al-As'ad will prepare. I hope that these consultations will be over by Saturday. Afterward, the stage will be set for meeting the president and forming the future government.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, in your statement you talked about nearly all the issues, except the military institution. What is your view regarding the role of the military institution — that is, the Lebanese Army — under your government and in these circumstances?

[Karami] There is no doubt that the government is called upon to tackle all controversial problems, foremost of which is the issue of the Army, which we regard as the shield of the homeland and the protector of the citizen's security. This institution must be given all our attention in order to regain its role in all Lebanon and for all Lebanese. We must give it all the necessary confidence and we must not place any obstacles in its way. We will begin this task after the formation of the cabinet in order to permit this institution to play its correct and comprehensive role and to purge ourselves and the land, because the Army is our mainstay. [end recording]

Islamic Leaders Support Karami's Designation

NC252024 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] Former Prime Minister Rashid as-Sulh today confirmed that Islamic leaders are almost unanimous on the designation of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami to form a new government and that there is no truth to reports about differences among these leaders over this designation.

In a statement today, As-Sulh said that the designation was almost decided and that it would be announced Thursday at the latest. There is no truth to reports that other candidates are competing against Rashid Karami.

Answering a question, As-Sulh said: I believe that the designation will be definitely preceded by an agreement over the broad lines of previously disputed questions. As-Sulh expressed optimism over anticipated developments, noting that trends toward agreement and beginning of accord have done away with negative possibilities in solving the crisis.

Junblatt Prepared To Join Karami Government

NC251843 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, met with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace in Paris this afternoon for talks on the situation in Lebanon. Earlier, he met with Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, with whom he discussed the Lebanese crisis and France's interest in this crisis.

Following his meeting with Cheysson, Junblatt made a statement in which he said that he is ready to join a government of national unity alongside Nabih Birri, Camille Sham'un, and Pierre al-Jumayyil as ministers of state if this helps put an end to bloodshed, leads to the salvation of Lebanon, and aims at peace.

Junblatt said that he will ask France to act through the United Nations to liberate the south from the Israeli Forces. He said: Without the liberation of the south there will be no Lebanon.

Junblatt reiterated his criticism of Amin al-Jumayyil, considering him permanently responsible for the crimes committed against the Lebanese people and Lebanon for which he must be tried. However, Junblatt said: I am ready to work with Al-Jumayyil if this will save the life of the citizens.

Makes Further Remarks in Paris

NC251900 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt does not oppose the formation of a government in Lebanon. However, he doubted its efficiency and added that he will not assume the defense portfolio, which is complicated because of the existence of many armies and militias. He affirmed that he will be appointed as minister of state.

Junblatt made this statement to French television. He said he considers the disengagement of forces plan lacking seriousness. He said that it is in the interest of Syria that there should be a reconciliation among the Lebanese at present. He added: Regarding Israel, I have some doubts about it.

Fadi Najjar, our correspondent in the French capital speaks to us now about Junblatt's activities and discussions in Paris today:

[Begin recording] Walid Junblatt spent his day in Paris today. He began his day by having breakfast with Claude Cheysson. He was then the guest of Television Channel Two. He had lunch at the table of Lebanon's ambassador in Paris where he was reconciled with Deputy Fu'ad Tahinah. President Mitterrand received Junblatt at the Elysee Palace for 40 minutes in the evening.

Junblatt's tone tends toward moderation. He was compelled to drop some of the slogans he had previously raised. He was embarrassed during the television interview concerning four [number as heard] points: the quick change of his attitude toward President al-Jumayyil, the nature of his relationship with Syria and Israel, and his affiliation to the group of personalities he describes as petrified bodies. Following is some of the television dialogue.

Asked about his vague relations with Israel, Junblatt said: I have no relations with Israel. I have connections with the Israeli Druze when they come to Jabal Lubnan. When Junblatt was told that his relations with the Israeli Army in Ash-Shuf were good, he said: I had to choose between fighting the Phalangists or the Israelis. We fought the Phalangists and held a truce with Israel. I admit this.

When Junblatt spoke about the petrification of politicians in Lebanon, the announcer asked him: You and your family are part of this political life. Do you condemn yourself? Junblatt answered: This is very true. I am, perhaps, condemning myself. However, I am proposing a progressive formula that separates religion from the state.

A reporter who met with Junblatt at the table of the Lebanese ambassador quoted Junblatt as saying that Claude Cheysson described two Lebanese politicians as being like crocodiles — long-lived and tough-skinned. Cheysson was trying to outdo Junblatt when he also used the term petrified bodies.

Junblatt said that he will be a minister of state residing between Damascus and Amman and that the government will see light in 2 days to a week. Junblatt was traveling today in an armored car. He will leave for Damascus tomorrow. [end recording]

Afram Discusses New Government, Syrian Role

NC260725 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT
26 Apr 84

[Text] In an interview with the newspaper *AL-ANWAR* today, Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram affirmed that the aim of the Lebanese Forces is to hold direct negotiations with other Lebanese parties, including the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party, without any Syrian umbrella. He

pointed out that actual dialogue has not yet taken place, but there are several common denominators among all the parties that have crystallized 1 and 1/2 years after the recent events.

Afram expressed the Lebanese Forces' satisfaction with the Christian position taken by [former] President Sulayman Frangijah at the Lausanne conference. However, he said, the problem of the north is a problem of people who have left their homes. It would be nice to agree on political issues with President Frangijah, but there are other issues concerning the people, and they must be taken into consideration.

Afram said the Lebanese Forces have not yet been asked to join the next government. But as a matter of principle he objected to things taking place under the Syrian umbrella. He maintained that any decision that will be taken against the interest of our society will be opposed.

The Lebanese Forces commander revealed that contacts are taking place with Damascus through certain individuals, although the rope has become a thread between the two sides following the public position the Lebanese Forces have taken toward Israel. He said that during the events in the mountain there was a meeting of interests and the Lebanese Forces became the scapegoat. He affirmed that the return of the displaced to the mountain is not far off, because it is part of the general political proposals being made for agreement with the Druze to ensure the interests of the Christians and Druze in the area. Afram maintained that the solution demands satisfaction on the part of all parties and an Israeli-Syrian agreement.

Deployment of Disengagement Forces Continues

Process Complete in Beirut Areas

NC251745 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] The deployment of disengagement forces in the Greek Orthodox bishopric and Beirut Judiciary Detachment areas on Damascus Road has been completed. This then concludes the deployment of forces in the Beirut areas. The Security Arrangements Committee has overseen the deployment process. There are still some positions in the mountain where the deployment is expected to be completed.

PSP Radio Blames Army for Delays

NC251802 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Our security correspondent has supplied us with the following report:

At 1420 the Military Tribunal premises came under sniper fire from the Jewish cemetery; at 1503 the Matta petrol station came under bursts of gunfire; at 1514 volleys of machine gun fire were directed at Mar Mikha'il; at 1520 the Mar Mikha'il-Primo axis was subjected to bursts of gunfire; at 1540 sniper fire was targeted at Mar Mikha'il and contact lines in Ash-Shiyah and the Cola area; at 1547 a B-7 projectile was directed against the

Khalaf building; at 1557 the Primo axis was subjected to B-7's; and at 1615 the At-Tarzi building in Marun Misk Street and the Post Office axis were subjected to sniper fire.

As for the deployment of security observers, withdrawals were effected from the Ra's al-Jabal area, and the disengagement forces took up positions without any difficulties. But on the Qurs al-Mudawwar axis, the Amin al-Jumayyil army has not completely vacated its position.

On the Dahr al-Wahsh axis, the army is trying to amend certain provisions of the agreement to evade its implementation. The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], on the other hand, is endeavoring to patch up all problems.

The disengagement forces have thus far failed to take up their fixed positions on that axis due to the army commander's refusal to abide by the agreement and his insistence on not vacating the Al-Qusur and Khayrallah areas. This has led to the postponement of the deployment until he receives new instructions from his command. This has been going on at a time when the PSP has been rendering every means of assistance to the Security Arrangements Committee and Internal Forces.

France To Help Organize Forces

NC252031 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] Quoting an informed source in Beirut, AFP reports that a French military mission arrived in Beirut today to study the aid France could offer to reorganize the Internal Security Forces. This afternoon President Amin al-Jumayyil received the mission, which is led by General (Michel Nobel de Perra) and which was dispatched at the president's request. The source said that the mission will study the requirements of the gendarmerie force and that it is likely France will propose a comprehensive plan for the reorganization of these forces.

Security Committee Statement

NC252250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Statement by the Security Arrangements Committee issued on 25 April]

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee resumed the implementation of the disengagement of forces plan. It completed the deployment of observers and disengagements of the forces, and fixed the positions of the Internal Security Forces in the buffer zones. The most recent arrangements were made in Tallat [hill] al-Prins, Qurs al-Mudawwar, Tallat 882, and the Kuwaiti Palace in the mountain area, and in the Greek Catholic bishopric area and at the Qulaylat-Ash-Sha'ar intersection in Beirut.

The committee supervised the deployment of some forces in Beirut, and will start today the implementation of the operation in the Dahr al-Wahsh area, which is considered the final phase. It will also tackle some of the gaps in the southern suburb.

The committee reiterated its appeal to all information media to stop the propaganda campaigns in implementation of what was agreed upon.

Lebanese Front To Hold Exclusive Meeting 30 April
NC251547 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1505 GMT
 25 Apr 84

[Text] The Lebanese Front has decided to hold an exclusive meeting next Monday to review the subject of new government formation. The front held a meeting this morning chaired by former President Camille Sham'un, and attended by Deputy Pierre al-Jumayyil, Edward Hunayn, Charles Malik, Fu'ad Afram al-Bustani, and Fadi Afram.

Discussions during the meeting centered on the latest developments in the security and political levels, especially the deployment of observers and buffer forces between the rival factions on the confrontation lines. The front also discussed the result of the Lebanese-Syrian summit and the meeting between Mr Sham'un and President al-Jumayyil.

Mr Sham'un stated after the meeting that the participants discussed political affairs, the most important of which was the formation of a new government. The former president added that the discussions were postponed until next Monday so that more decisions could be adopted. In a response to a question which Mr Sham'un suggested that a new government would not be formed next Monday. [Sentence as heard]

Southern Leaders Reject Israeli Practices
NC251909 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
 25 Apr 84

[Text] Southern Lebanese leaders met this morning at the residence of Sidon Deputy Dr Nazih al-Bizri. The meeting was attended by Sidon's Maronite Bishop Ibrahim al-Hilu, Engineer Mustafa Sa'd, Sidon Mayor Engineer Ahmad al-Kalash, Sidon Awqaf Director Shaykh Salim Susan, a delegation of the Amal Movement including Mahmud al-Faqih and Milhim Qansu, former Deputy Samir Husayran, Industrialists Association Chairman Sami al-Bisat, Labor Federation Vice Chairman Hasib 'Abd al-Jawad, Lebanese University professors representative 'Ali ash-Shami, and Merchants Association Chairman 'Ali ash-Sharif. A statement issued after the meeting said:

1. The conferees affirm their rejection of the Israeli occupation and its instruments which we consider a part of the occupation forces and their policy.
2. The conferees denounce and condemn assassinations and arbitrary collective detentions, particularly those of Dr 'Ali ash-Shaykh 'Ammar, Southern Health Department Director engineer Walid 'Akra, and all attempts being made by Israel which constitute a dangerous turn to stir up sedition through Israeli agents.
3. The conferees affirm the national coexistence in the south, call on all factions to fight the new Israeli practices, and urge all

religious, social, and political institutions to oppose such practices and to combat the sedition by all means to safeguard unity of the south which is the basis of Lebanon's unity and liberation.

4. The conferees urge the state to act immediately to reopen the Coastal Highway, lift the siege of the south, and support the southerners' steadfastness in the face of the deterioration in their economic situation because of the occupation.

5. The conferees urge all international and humanitarian organizations to intervene immediately to check the injustices of the occupation army in the south and in western Al-Biq'a' and to help the southern people to liberate their land.

6. The conferees call on the state, represented by the Justice Ministry, to order the public prosecution in the south to prosecute and issue warrants of arrest against criminals.

7. The conferees call on southern citizens to stand fast, to reject the occupation, and to oppose agents.

8. The conferees decide to intensify their meetings to confront the serious situation.

Birri Meets Southern Delegation, Speaks of Outlook
NC252000 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
 25 Apr 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri today received a delegation representing six villages in Jabal ar-Rihan [in southern Lebanon]. The delegation briefed Birri on the tragic situation in Ar-Rihan and neighboring villages as a result of the practices by the Israeli Forces and their supporters, particularly in the wake of the arrest of several citizens in Ar-Rihan, including Subhi Shibr, the [Amal] Movement's organizational affairs official, who died after being tortured by the Israeli enemy. Several others remain in detention, including Bilal Ahmad Hassun who is suffering from heart disease. The delegation also briefed Birri on a plan to evacuate approximately 30,000 Muslims from the area.

Lawyer Birri stressed to the delegation the need to remain loyal to the land and stay in their villages and towns. He warned that such a plan in that area in particular is an Israeli strategic goal to liquidate certain areas to ensure the plans for the Jazzin area. What is presently taking place is not unrelated to the Jazzin conference which followed the Lausanne conference. The formation of the southern army of Lebanon, the closure of the coastal highway, and the difficulty in traveling to the south are not unusual things. Israel is responsible for all that is taking place. The fate of Lahhad's army [southern army of Lebanon] will not be any better than that of his predecessor, Sa'd Haddad. This army exhibits the image of Israel — which manipulates it — to revive Israel's ugly face and measures against the southern people. Birri added that killing detainees, imprisoning sick people, sealing homes with red wax, setting up a sectarian army, and evacuating citizens are nothing new with regard to Israeli practices, although Israel has always been able to conceal its true image through the pro-Israeli media throughout the world.

Lawyer Birri, in response to questions about his visit to Damascus, said: We visited Damascus to become acquainted with the outcome of the summit conference. We were cognizant of the importance of the efforts being exerted by Syria, Brother President al-Asad, Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and other Syrian officials to bring about national accord. In fact, it appeared that the Lausanne agreement was used as a basis for this and has developed in such a way that one can say all parties agree to it in principle. It should be noted that the question of the south is being dealt with according to the provisions of the Lausanne agreement. We have drawn attention to the fact that developments have taken place in the wake of the Lausanne conference that require the addition of two basic goals which cannot be ignored. They are: a lawful stance regarding the Lahhad phenomenon and the reopening of the Sidon-Beirut coastal highway. These two issues fall entirely under Lebanese sovereignty.

Regarding the abolition of political sectarianism, the Amal Movement leader said: In relation to the abolition of political sectarianism, tangible and positive progress has been achieved with regard to the new provisions. This principle of the abolition of political sectarianism has been approved as a guiding objective to be implemented in employment or representation in government. Some of this will be implemented immediately and fairness will be observed in applying the other part [as heard] pending the application of the principle as a whole. This agreement will be included in the government's policy statement which the new government will be committed to implement and achieve. It should be stated that it will be the Lebanese Government's statement for 1984.

Concerning the Army, lawyer Birri added, the Higher Defense Council will oversee the Army, Internal Security Forces, and public security forces, and will reorganize and regroup them pending the establishment of the appropriate commands. All major parties will be represented in the Defense Council.

Birri, Al-Hariri Discuss Latest Developments

NC251935 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri arrived at the Presidential Palace tonight. He later visited Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri with whom he reviewed the general situation in Lebanon and the latest developments regarding the formation of a new government.

Lawyer Birri has also received a telephone call from former Minister Marwan Hamadah — who is currently in Paris — during which they discussed the current situation. Birri also received a similar call from former Minister Khalid Junblatt.

Phalangists Willing to Discuss 'All Matters'

NC231349 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] At the meeting of the Phalange Party's Political Bureau and Central Council, Pierre al-Jumayyil expressed the Phalangists' readiness to discuss all matters while taking into consideration the circumstances of Lebanese society and the living

conditions in the country. He pointed out apprehensions among the Christians and the need to take this aspect into consideration in any future formula. The Phalangist leader reiterated that any discussion of political reforms must be done through the legal constitutional institutions, the government, and the Chamber of Deputies. Al-Jumayyil presented a report on political and security developments in the country. He expressed the hope that this phase of truce will become real peace in which everyone will work to save Lebanon. The Political Bureau and the Central Council discussed internal and party affairs.

RFL Reports Junblatt-Lubrani Meeting in Batir

NC251816 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has reported that a meeting was held a few days ago in the town of Batir in the Ash-Shuf area between Walid Junblatt and Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate the actions of the socialist and Israeli sides with regard to controlling the security situation in the Ash-Shuf area, which has become the only gateway to the south, and laying the basis of future relations between the two sides.

The Israeli side raised the question of the influx of more weapons and ammunition into southern Lebanon, despite the closure of the coastal road and intensification of searches at the crossing points. Lubrani suggested that the socialists may have breached the promise they made to prevent the infiltration of weapons into southern Lebanon. He asked the socialists to adopt a stricter and more effective stand because thus far they have only shown weakness and an inability to control the situation.

PSP Prohibits Military From Contacting Army Command

NC211510 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Acting on orders from Anwar al-Fatayri [member of the Progressive Socialist Party Command] Junblatt's gunmen have prohibited the military personnel in Al-Amir Bashir Barracks from communicating with the [Lebanese Army] Command in Al-Yarzi. They have also banned the 6th Brigade, which receives directives from the Amal Movement, from issuing any statements without the approval of Junblatt's [Progressive Socialist] Party.

Lebanese Forces Reportedly Detain Citizens

NC251417 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The Lebanese Forces continue to carry out treacherous acts despite the ongoing talks on the [formation] of the government and the disengagement of forces. Since 1420, the Lebanese Forces have been detaining Muslim citizens near the Olivetti Building [in Beirut]. They have so far detained 12 citizens. Therefore we warn the citizens against such treacherous acts and against passing through areas under the Lebanese Forces' control.

Intermittent Clashes Continue in Beirut Area

NC251622 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The attacks by gunmen of various organizations on some residential quarters in the southern suburb led to the wounding of three persons in Furn ash-Shubbak, where several shells fell after 1700 this evening. Intermittent clashes are continuing on the axes of Sfayr, Mar Mika'il, Al-Barid, Al-Matahin, and Galerie Sim'an where the army positions are coming under shellfire and bursts of heavy and medium machine gun fire. There were bursts of heavy machine gun fire and shelling with B7 shells on the Sodoco, Primo, and Al-Barjawi axes in the capital.

The Army Command's Guidance Directorate issued a statement saying that it continues to exercise self-restraint and to refrain from retaliating. The security committee has been informed about the attacks in order to deal with them speedily.

Amal gunmen, at their checkpoint in Al-Barbir, kidnapped several citizens this afternoon. Their fate is yet unknown. Two persons were wounded in a clash between Amal gunmen and members of the 6th Brigade in the Amir al-Bashir barracks after the barracks commander refused to hand over one of the soldiers. According to reports from West Beirut, a clash occurred in Ar-Ramlah al-Bayda'.

Syrian Aircraft Overflies Al-Biq'a', Mountain

NC251623 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] Syrian aircraft overflew Al-Biq'a' area at a high altitude at noon today. The sorties reached the mountain area.

Mufti Khalid Holds Meetings To Discuss Developments**Meets Presidential Adviser**

NC211936 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
21 Apr 84

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese republic, this evening received Presidential Adviser Muhammad Shuqayr. They discussed the results of the Lebanese-Syrian summit. Mufti Khalid later received Tawfiq Sultan, deputy leader of the Progressive Socialist Party. They discussed the current situation.

Reviews Damascus Talks

NC240732 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic
0530 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The Mufti of Lebanon Shaykh Hasan Khalid yesterday followed up the political and security developments in the country. He met with former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss with whom he reviewed the current developments in Lebanon and the mufti's expected visit to Damascus.

Mufti Khalid also met with Al-Ifta' Affairs Director General Dr Husayn al-Quwwatli who briefed the mufti on the 22 April meeting in Damascus between Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun, and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt.

Mufti Khalid also met with Kamal Shatila, secretary general of the Union of the People's Working Forces, with whom he discussed the consequences of depriving the people's movement in Beirut of participation in political and security decisionmaking.

Palestinian, Al-Murabitun Cells Being Formed

NC241813 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT
24 Apr 84

[Text] Security reports say Abu Mahir [PFLP Political Bureau member Ahmad al-Yamani] has returned to Beirut after leaving during the incidents between the Al-Murabitun and the Socialists. Abu Mahir has taken an office in Al-Mazra'ah Street and has begun to organize Palestinians cells. The reports further say that the Al-Murabitun are reorganizing themselves in secret cells.

Al-Murabitun Official Escapes Attack on House

NC220700 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon
in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Excerpts] At 0130 today, the residence of Brother 'Atif ad-Durubi, member of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun Higher Political Committee and the official responsible for administration of Beirut affairs, was the target of a criminal attack. A rocket hit the first floor of the building in which he lives. Brother 'Atif ad-Durubi made the following statement to the Voice of Arab Lebanon correspondent:

The incident to which my house and family were subjected was actually aimed at my life, because it appears that a person who works for the dignity of his country and his community is no longer needed these days. Let it be known, however, that we are clinging to our land, our area, and our creed. Such criminal attacks will not divert us from this. On this occasion, I declare that despite all this we adhere to the decisions we signed in the residence of the mufti of the republic. We must all be patient and wise.

Al-Asad Grants Interview to ABC

*JN252026 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1820 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[“Text” of interview with President Hafiz al-Asad by ABC correspondent Peter Jennings in Damascus; questions in English with superimposed, announcer-read translation into Arabic — date not given; video recorded]

[Text] [Jennings] Mr President, Syria is currently playing a central role in the Middle East. What, in your opinion, is the historic foundation of that role?

[Al-Asad] Syria has always confronted every aggression to which the Arab nation was exposed. Currently, Syria is unhesitatingly confronting the successive aggressions against the Arab countries. It also stands in the face of the Israeli invasion. It does not relinquish any of its national and pan-Arab rights, and for the sake of that, it sacrifices its bread, sweat, and the blood of its citizens. In my opinion, this places Syria in a position for appreciation by the Arab citizens of whom Syrian citizens form a part.

[Jennings] Mr President, when you assumed power in 1970, what were your hopes concerning Syria's future, and what is the key to the stability you have achieved?

[Al-Asad] I hoped Syria would be stronger in the political, educational, social, economic, and military fields. We have made great gains in these areas. Regarding the key to stability, everybody can understand it was due to a sound policy in the various domestic and foreign fields, admitting at the same time the impossibility of ruling out some errors in some fields or actions. We struggled and will continue to struggle to eliminate those errors, but their importance is relatively slight with regard to the many successes Syria's people have achieved throughout the past years.

[Jennings] Mr President, you recently met with President al-Jumayyil. Do you believe you laid the groundwork for forming a government of national unity? Do you believe that such groundwork will work?

[Al-Asad] During my meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil, we held long discussions which lasted 15 hours. There is no doubt that during those long talks we tried to reach, and we have reached, a point where we can sense Lebanon's interest and where there is a basis for saving Lebanon from the most important problems from which it is suffering.

During these discussions, we agreed on many matters we should not disclose for the time being, especially since our brothers in Lebanon are holding discussions on these matters and making contacts among themselves. Undoubtedly, everybody can predict the necessity of a national unity government to actually represent Lebanon and be able to make an effective decision to stop the fighting and realize a real reconciliation among the Lebanese as well as move collectively to build Lebanon and to liberate it from the Israeli invasion.

We in Syria fully cooperate with President al-Jumayyil and with the national unity government to be formed as well as with the

Lebanese people so that Lebanon can realize its objectives which I have mentioned.

[Jennings] What, in your opinion, political and military mistakes did the United States commit in Lebanon?

[Al-Asad] Let me be brief and say: The United States' greatest mistake is that it did not come with a U.S. policy but with an Israeli policy. I have said this before to U.S. officials and reporters. For example, the United States did not need to bring in its fleets and aircraft carriers. I mean that the United States, the superpower, which has a special responsibility in the world, should have applied its political weight and should have come with an objective, political plan was not biased in favor of Israel. In such a case, I believe the United States could have played a positive and effective role that would have served the interests of all the parties in the Lebanese arena.

[Jennings] Mr President, Syrian-U.S. relations are now at their lowest ebb. What is the most quick and effective way to improve these relations?

[Al-Asad] What is important is that in dealing with us, the United States should not resort to the policy of the gun. That policy may be correct for a small state to pursue; it does not suit a major power. At a time when it is a mistake for a small state to use the policy of the gun, it is a major mistake for a superpower to practice this policy. The United States always adopts a policy that is against our national and pan-Arab interests and aspirations. We support the establishment of normal relations with the United States — relations that take into consideration our interests and our people's legitimate national and pan-Arab aspirations.

[Jennings] Mr President, I hope you will be more specific. When you released Goodman, the U.S. POW, Reagan's idea was not a bad one when he announced his readiness to meet with you and talk with you. Had you been invited, would you have accepted the invitation and gone to Washington if it were a serious invitation?

[Al-Asad] It seems that this question is brief and its answer will also appear brief. Therefore, neither the question nor the answer will satisfy the questioner, the answerer, or the listener. It is not a question of an invitation or accepting an invitation. Such an invitation depends on the overall contacts and preparations and the objectives of such an invitation.

[Jennings] Mr President, once again, I hope you will be more specific. How can — or must — Syrian-U.S. relations be improved? As you said, U.S. behavior contradicts your pan-Arab aspirations. Will you define a way to improve these relations? I remember you said there is no use in any direct meeting between you and President Reagan. Did you not say this?

[Al-Asad] I did not say there is no use in any meeting between me and President Reagan. I said that it is not a matter of an invitation and the acceptance or nonacceptance of that invitation. The matter depends on the implications. What do we want? What does the U.S. Administration want? What are the points

we will discuss? In light of this, the invitation and its acceptance might be important or unimportant.

[Jennings] What are your strategic objectives in Lebanon, particularly since you know what is being said in the West about the Syrian policy in Lebanon? They say this policy is meant to calm everyone, stop the fighting, and help in forming a nationalist government. What are your real strategic objectives in Lebanon?

[Al-Asad] Our strategic objectives have always been declared. We repeat them: to achieve an end to the fighting in Lebanon; to fulfil national reconciliation; to establish a Lebanese government of national unity; to re-emphasize the unity of all the Lebanese institutions; to establish a free, unified, and independent Lebanese state; and to have the Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon. We are serious about helping Lebanon achieve these objectives. Our recent contacts concentrated on these topics. A few days ago I received the Lebanese president, and yesterday, the vice president received a number of the Lebanese leaders. Later today, I will receive Rashid Karami, who you know is one of the pillars of the Lebanese National Salvation Front. Perhaps tomorrow and the day after I will receive others in order to exchange opinions concerning means of achieving these objectives.

[Jennings] Mr President, I have a two-part question: How far do you intend to go to achieve your objectives? If something happens in Lebanon that dissatisfies Damascus, is it true this thing will not take place?

[Al-Asad] I believe our interests do not conflict with Lebanon's. There is conformity and harmony between the Syrian and the Lebanese interests. These interests were exchanged throughout history and will remain as such now and in the future. If we are victorious, then we will be victorious together. And if we fail, then we will fail together. If something happens in Lebanon that is hostile to Syria's interests, this means it is also hostile to Lebanon's. In this case, we will cooperate together, as we did in the past, against what is unsuitable for our common interests.

[Jennings] Mr President, do you foresee any circumstances where Syria might withdraw its forces from Lebanon before Israel does?

[Al-Asad] I do not foresee such circumstances. There is no connection between the Syrian and Lebanese presence in Lebanon. Syria came to Lebanon at the request of both the Lebanese legitimacy and people many years ago and offered sacrifices for the sake of the Lebanese people without asking anything in return. On the other hand, Israel came to Lebanon as an invading force and did not come at the request of the legitimate Lebanese authorities. I must point out here that we and the Lebanese people are linked by the same history, language, and interests, while Israel is not linked to any of us with any ties of this sort. The ties that Israel has with us are those based on invasion, aggression, and expansionism. Furthermore, I would like to note that we have a joint defense treaty with Lebanon. This requires us to contribute to defending Lebanon against any foreign invasion.

[Jennings] May I ask you if there is anything in common between Syria and Israel? Is there anything in common, any joint interests?

[Al-Asad] How can there be anything in common between two sides when one works to occupy the other side's territories, dispersing its citizens and continually expanding every now and then?

[Jennings] Do you believe there will be a time when Syria and Israel will meet around the negotiating table, or will Syria only negotiate when it achieves military parity with Israel?

[Al-Asad] Experience confirms there is no hope in ending Israeli expansionist aspirations so long as Israel feels it is a superpower in the region. Thus, anyone who wants to see a just peace in the region and is concerned about this peace must have the conviction that a strategic balance must exist in this region. This is what we aim to achieve. We are just as eager to seek peace as we are to achieve military parity.

[Jennings] I want to be sure that I understand you well. You are saying there will be no negotiations with Israel until Syria achieves military parity.

[Al-Asad interrupting] Within what context are you suggesting negotiations?

[Jennings] Within the framework of negotiating about withdrawal from the Golan Heights, within the framework of Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, within the framework of peace negotiations toward a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

[Al-Asad] What I meant by framework is according to what legitimate formula will such negotiations take place? If the question means bilateral contact, of course such contact will not happen. The United Nations has defined certain formulas. We only act within the framework of the UN formulas and resolutions. For example, we support convening an international conference under UN auspices.

[Jennings] Are you talking about Resolutions 242 and 338?

[Al-Asad] Yes, and other resolutions. Of course, there are numerous resolutions relating to the Middle East and the Palestinian question. The latest resolutions, or rather one of the recent principal resolutions, on whose basis we stopped the October war, was Resolution 338, which also includes Resolution 242.

[Jennings] Are these still the proper bases for negotiations?

[Al-Asad] Yes, yes.

[Jennings] What effective role could the USSR play in the Middle East?

[Al-Asad] If the issue is related to the establishment of a just and permanent peace in the region, then I believe the USSR will be willing to exert extensive efforts and activities in this course.

[Jennings] It is said and suggested that Syria is more vulnerable to Soviet influence due to its deteriorating relations with the United States.

[Al-Asad] Our relations with the USSR are based on positive principles. The USSR stands on our side in our struggle to liberate our land and repulse aggression. It stands on our side to achieve just peace. I reiterate that our relations with the USSR are based on positive principles and not negative ones, if one can describe them as such. Of course, we would like the United States to adopt a similar just stand toward us. I emphasize a just stand because this means liberating our land from occupation and repulsing the invasion. This was stipulated by the UN resolutions to which the United States agreed.

[Jennings] Many people in the West are wondering about your reasons for supporting the Palestinian forces that tried to topple Yasir 'Arafat. Why did you do that?

[Al-Asad] Materially, we did not interfere in their affairs, but this does not conflict with the fact that our view is closer to one side than the other. We hope that all the Palestinians will adopt the same view.

[Jennings] Yasir 'Arafat is still the PLO chairman; the split [at-talaq] has not met wide acceptance in the Middle East. On the contrary, it is reconciliation that is taking place on a large scale. Do you expect a reconciliation to take place between you and Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Asad] The problem originally is not between us and Yasir 'Arafat. The problem lies between him and his brothers. When they agree among themselves, nobody will then feel there is a problem between Syria and any other party.

[Jennings] What is your opinion about the Islamic revolution in Iran?

[Al-Asad] We consider the Islamic Revolution in Iran a great victory for us, the Arabs, and the Third World countries in general. This is what we sensed following the inception of the revolution. If the question refers to Iran's internal affairs, then these are Iran's concern. We have no right to interfere in them. Iran strongly supports us against the Israeli aggression and for liberating our territories occupied by Israel, and also for regaining the Palestinians' rights.

[Jennings] It seems to us in the West there is a contradiction in your stand. You support the Islamic revolution in Iran and at the same time you are a nationalist, proud of yourself, a nationalist Arab, and you live in a country determined to build itself on the basis of secular values. Is there a danger of Syria becoming threatened one day by the Islamic Revolution, which is currently subjecting Iraq to this danger?

[Al-Asad] I do not see any contradiction in this stand because there is no contradiction between Arab nationalism and Iranian nationalism. Nothing is there that would pose a conflict between the two nationalisms. Furthermore, there is no contradiction between Arab nationalism and Islam.

We in Syria, and particularly in our Ba'th Party, consider Islam the most important aspect of our heritage possessed by our Arab nationalism. We are very proud of this heritage. I repeat, we the Arabs have unlimited pride in this heritage, whether we are Muslims or Christians. Thus, there is no contradiction in our stand.

Iran is a neighboring Muslim country where a revolution erupted against a previous situation that did not express the Iranian people's interests. This revolution stands at the Arabs' side in their struggle against the Israeli invasion and for regaining the Palestinians' rights and also for regaining Jerusalem — the city that includes both the Islamic and Christian holy places. So you see, our actions and words are in full agreement.

[Jennings] Mr President, I am happy to see you in good health as I saw you 10 years ago. There are rumors about your health. Because you are one of the prominent personalities in the region, these rumors enter into the region's political formula. Can I ask you about your health? And how do you explain the issue of the three vice presidents?

[Al-Asad] My health, as you can see, is good. I feel it is good. Medical tests show it is good. The facts available to us make us say whether we have good health or not.

As for the three vice presidents, it was a formula for work, which we developed with the aim of enhancing our performance. I announced this after my convalescence in a speech to the people. I said that our performance would not deteriorate, that we would improve it through new organizational formulas we were thinking of applying or implementing.

[Jennings] Mr President, some U.S. officials say that Syria was in a way responsible for the attacks on the U.S. Embassy and on the U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut. Can you answer these accusations?

[Al-Asad] I believe the U.S. officials who level these accusations do not believe what they themselves are saying. This is because the U.S. embassies and forces abroad are exposed to various attacks in various places. Does this mean that the governments of those countries are responsible for, have planned, or helped carry out such operations?

In the United States itself there are acts of murder and destruction from time to time, in one city or another. Does this mean that the United States plans such acts? I do not find a basis for these accusations. We were not close to the U.S. forces or the U.S. Embassy when these forces or that embassy were hit. We were separated from these places by several kilometers, along which other forces were stationed, such as the Lebanese Army, the Phalangist forces, and even the U.S. forces themselves. All these forces could not prevent the operation. How could we, or should we, prevent this when we are so far away? This is an illogical and unjustifiable accusation.

[Jennings] A final question. Let me put forward a philosophical observation. It may be said the attack on the U.S. Marines and the embassy may have realized Syria's interests in Lebanon because they led to the U.S. withdrawal from Lebanon. The

question is: Do you view terrorism as a means of war and as a legitimate tool of war?

[Al-Asad] We are against terrorism. But what is terrorism? It seems that there are premeditated attempts to confuse terrorism with the national resistance of peoples and the national resistance against occupation and colonialism. Terrorism is for one country to invade another country, occupy its land, and expel its people. Terrorism is the acts committed by gangs of robbers and murderers and the like. The acts of people in every country, of people whose lands are occupied, against the occupiers have not been known as acts of terrorism throughout history. These acts were known as acts of national resistance against occupation. Hence, these acts were known in history as heroic deeds. Peoples of the world, without exception, have sanctified these deeds. We oppose terrorism in this sense. We support the national resistance of all peoples and in all countries of the world — a resistance meant to liberate the homeland from foreign occupation.

You fought to win independence from the British. You fought against the British to win your independence. Did you practice terrorism or did you carry out national resistance operations? The Vietnamese fought the U.S. forces with all the means available to them. Did the Vietnamese fighters' acts come under the title of terrorism or of national action for liberation?

Algeria fought against France with all its means. Did the Algerian people practice terrorism or national resistance? We in Syria fought against France with the means we had at that time. Did we practice what may be called terrorism, or did we carry out national resistance actions?

All of us have practiced national resistance. Everyone has a duty to practice this resistance if his homeland or part of it is occupied. We must differentiate between terrorism and national resistance. In light of this concept, we directly and vehemently oppose terrorism, and we support national resistance aimed at expelling the occupiers from any country occupied in full or in part. We support this resistance.

Libya's Jallud Begins Visit to Damascus 25 Apr

JN251804 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1755 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the 1 September Libyan Revolution, arrived in Damascus for several days this evening on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus airport by Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', the director of the Libyan Relations Bureau in Damascus, and the Bureau's members.

Gives Al-Asad Message

JN252231 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] At 2045 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the 1 September Libyan Revolution. During the meeting, Jallud conveyed a

message from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. Al-Asad gave him a reply message.

The talks during the meeting dealt with the situation in the region and matters that concern both countries.

Khaddam Arrives in Athens 25 April

JN251354 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1335 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Athens, 25 Apr (SANA) — At 1400 this afternoon Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and his accompanying delegation arrived in Athens on a 3-day official visit to Greece.

Khaddam was received at Athens airport by Greek Prime Minister Andre Papandreu and a number of ministers, Army officers, and Greek officials. Also present were Syrian Ambassador to Greece 'Ali al-Madani and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps. The first round of talks between the Syrian Arab side headed by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Greek side headed by Prime Minister Papandreu will begin at (?1800) this evening. After the talks this evening, the Greek prime minister will hold a banquet in honor of Khaddam and his accompanying delegation.

Ash-Shar' Receives Lebanese Adviser 'Ubayd

JN251209 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' received at his office this morning Jean 'Ubayd, adviser to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. The talks dealt with President Amin al-Jumayyil's efforts to form a national unity government in Lebanon. The two sides also referred to President Hafiz al-Asad's great efforts to help fraternal Lebanon and put the Lebanese parties on the road to national accord and unity.

Talas, GDR's Kleiber Review Middle East Situation

JN251544 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister, has discussed with the GDR delegation led by Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, the current situation in the region and the means of developing economic cooperation between the two countries.

TISHRIN Discusses Arens' Statements on War

JN251014 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 25 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its daily "Behind the News" column, the newspaper *TISHRIN* says: At a time when Israeli war minister Arens claimed Israel does not intend to launch an attack on Syria, he also claimed Syria will not hesitate to launch a war against Israel, and that Syria is actually attempting to create a pretext for this.

Although Arens' claims are questionable, given that Israel's record is full of aggressive wars, there is proof of an intention or even a new aggressive plan against Syria. In addition to the fact that the present elections in Israel would make the Likud government exert feverish efforts to drag the largest possible number of settlers to vote for it, even at the cost of launching of a large-scale aggression against Syria or its forces in Lebanon, there are strategic considerations that go beyond the level of the election campaign and party conflicts. All the effective political forces in Israel are unanimous regarding these considerations.

The first consideration *TISHRIN* believes is that Israel will not allow any Arab force to grow and achieve a strategic balance with Israel. Moreover, Israel would deal a blow to abort this force. Thus, we can understand the secret that lies behind the repeated Israeli statements on the increasing Syrian force. We can also understand Arens' statements that Syria will not be able to achieve a strategic balance with Israel because there is a large gap in the latter's interest.

The second consideration is that the implementation of the plan to Judaize the Palestinian West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to annex southern Lebanon is in full swing. Therefore, the best thing for Israel is to divert attention away from this plan by launching an aggression, given the Israeli game regarding the continuation of the plans of aggression and expansion is based on the fact that any new expansionist Zionist achievement would cancel any Arab talk about previous achievements.

Regarding the third consideration, *TISHRIN* says: The abrogation of the 17 May agreement and the intensified contacts most of the Lebanese parties are holding with Damascus express the futility of wagering on Israel and stress the increasing Syrian option to achieve the Lebanese aspirations for ending the fighting, agreeing on the steps regarding political and administrative reforms, and forming the national unity government. Of course, Israel will never accept this because it contradicts its plan in Lebanon.

TISHRIN concludes: Thus, Israel is now in a state of preparedness and anticipation for launching an aggression despite all its war minister's claims. Of course, there are previous incidents that cannot be confined to the process of camouflaging Israel's objectives and plans before any aggressive action. Undoubtedly, the Israeli rulers' claims before the June war regarding their love for peace and hatred of war, releasing their soldiers in the streets of the occupied cities and then returning them to their barracks a few hours before starting the attack, prove that the statements on peace and lack of desire for war were only made to camouflage the military plans and cover the real hostile intentions and objectives. Of course, Arens' claims are no exception.

Lebanese National Accord Efforts 'Proceeding Steadily'

*JN251532 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The efforts being exerted to deal with the Lebanese situation are proceeding steadily toward the achievement of a

national accord and the formation of a national unity government that will secure cooperation from all the Lebanese parties in strengthening the Lebanese Government and its unified institutions, reconstructing the country, ensuring security for the Lebanese citizens, and directing all efforts toward liberating Lebanese territories from the Israeli invaders. Such efforts will gain the support and blessing of all the Lebanese concerned about Lebanon and its entity, independence, unity, and role after the long and difficult years of civil war, despite fragmentation, fighting, and destruction.

In fact, all the Lebanese parties have expressed their support for efforts to realize a national accord as well as their readiness to cooperate in one way or another with these efforts to salvage Lebanon and its people and to open the way for domestic reforms that will guarantee equality to all the factions and parties and emphasize all are required to bear their responsibilities and to enjoy their rights.

Syria, linked with Lebanon by joint interests, destiny, history, geography, kinship, education, and culture, has affirmed that it is with Lebanon and the efforts that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil is exerting to achieve a national accord and to form a national unity government to allow all the Lebanese parties to participate in assuming their responsibilities for national action in the future.

Despite the agreement of all the Lebanese sides and factions to move from the phase of maintaining security to the phase of rebuilding, liberating, strengthening the unity of the government's institutions, and realizing the necessary reforms, reports disclose from time to time difficulties and obstacles, and the disruption of security and the appearance of some sides that wish to undermine or hamper security efforts. This is not surprising because the United States and Israel will not accept the defeat they suffered in Lebanon at the hands of the Lebanese people's nationalist forces and Syria under President Leader Hafiz al-Asad. It is also impossible for all the enemies of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation to leave the battlefield without any resistance, damage to development, and attempts to take vengeance on those who achieved victory for Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation's masses. Those whose interests were harmed by the retreat of the U.S.-Israeli aggression and influence, and the popular Arab move against U.S. imperialism and Israel, will certainly try to avenge the efforts to reach peace, security, and accord in Lebanon. They will try to disrupt security in Lebanon, place obstacles on the path of national accord, perplex and pressure Syria, and create difficulties to make it change its position or distract it from continuing its victorious struggle against U.S. imperialism and Israeli aggression.

All this is expected, but the conspiracies, maneuvers, pressures, and intrigues will never succeed where an invasion in which tens of thousands of soldiers, large quantities of weapons, and U.S. warships, aircraft carriers, planes, artillery, and forces have failed. Syria is strong enough to prevent pressures and embarrassment from distracting it from its pan-Arab mission aimed at confronting the U.S.-Israeli-reactionary conspiracies. The Lebanese people are so enlightened that no fifth or sixth column can stop their march toward accord.

TISHRIN Notes Success of Syrian Role in Lebanon*JN260819 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 26 Apr 84*

[Press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column, *TISHRIN* points to the atmosphere of optimism prevailing in fraternal Lebanon and to the official and popular satisfaction — all of which show that detente factors are gradually replacing crisis factors.

TISHRIN stresses this official and popular optimism in Syria and Lebanon is irrefutable evidence of the importance of the Arab solution by which Syria has abided, for which it has struggled, and through which it has achieved detente and a just and balanced solution both on the political and social level.

TISHRIN adds: The effective talks, which started with the second Syrian-Lebanese summit, have begun to produce positive results. The parties to the dispute as well as the Lebanese masses have become proud of Syria's role, of its determination to solve the crisis which it had placed at the top of its pan-Arab priorities, and of the great care President Hafiz al-Asad has given to Lebanese accord. Syria has been sincere and loyal to its commitment to all parties and to their interests. Syria has been seeking the best methods and has been working for a just political solution to the crisis. Syria has not been working like the United States or like other Arab parties which are panting for U.S. solutions.

In dealing with the crisis, Syria abided by its firm and principled stand on all contemporary Arab issues, the foremost of which are liberating the Arab land from the Israeli occupation and obtaining the Palestinian people's rights. Syria knew that its mediations in Lebanon would produce results of which any Lebanese nationalist would be proud. From this premise, forming a national government that will represent all and will reflect Lebanon's national interests deserves more Syrian Arab support so that southern Lebanon will be liberated.

AS-SIYASAH on Israeli, Syrian Troop Movements*GF211610 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 20 Apr 84 p 1*

[Muhammad 'Adnan dispatch from Beirut]

[Excerpt] *AS-SIYASAH* has learned that Colonel Ibrahim Shahin, commander of a Lebanese Army division, sent a detailed

report to his command on the troop movements on the confrontation lines between the Israeli and Syrian forces. The report said both sides are reinforcing their positions and concentrating heavy weapons like tanks, antitank missiles, and long-range artillery at the borders.

The report added these reinforcements will increase the possibility of military confrontation between Syria and Israel, especially since Soviet experts have established a permanent center in (Riaq) in Al-Biq'a' to closely monitor the Israeli movements.

On other hand, sources at the army command told *AS-SIYASAH* that U.S. satellites are following the Syrian movements in Al-Biq'a', monitoring the Soviet experts' movements, supplying Israel with this information, and are offering technical advice to it in order to confront Syria's Soviet-made weapons. The sources added that the U.S. satellites send information directly to the operations center in the Pentagon.

Transport Cooperation Talks Held With Iran*JN251541 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] Damascus, 25 Apr (SANA) — Syrian-Iranian talks for developing transport cooperation began here today.

During today's meeting, the two sides reviewed the main points for an international road transport agreement between Syria and Iran for passenger and cargo transportation.

The Iranian delegation arrived yesterday in Damascus on a visit aimed at developing cooperation in the transport field.

The delegation is headed by Bahram Shabah, director of transport and transit in the Iranian Roads and Transport Ministry.

Shamir on Resumption of Negotiations on Peace Process

TA260916 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew

26 Apr 84 p 3

[Report by Niva Lanir]

[Text] "There is no reason why negotiations on the continuation of the peace process should not be resumed right away," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday when he met with members of the Netherlands parliament. He was thereby responding to statements made by Butrus Ghali to the effect that Egypt would only be prepared for such a resumption after the Israeli elections.

Shamir also expressed readiness to bring King Husayn into the negotiating process, "despite his recent declarations which embarrassed the United States."

Replying to this correspondent's question of whether a message along these lines had been conveyed to Egypt unofficially, and whether any political effort in this direction had been made recently, Mr Shamir said: "No. These statements were made in reaction to an unpleasant declaration by Ghali."

As for autonomy, the prime minister said: "Once 5 years have elapsed after its establishment, a climate of trust might evolve, and this could perhaps make possible a discussion on the political status of the territories."

Liberals Elect Moda'i To Head Party Knesset List

TA251515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT

25 Apr 84

[Text] The Liberal Party center elected Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i to head the party's Knesset list. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that 56 percent of the center members elected Moda'i, whereas Minister Moshe Nisim got 39.5 percent. Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor got approximately three percent, or only seven votes.

According to the internal Liberal Party arrangement that was adopted at the party center this afternoon, Moda'i and Nisim will hold the top two places on the list. Menahem Savidor will now be forced to contend with another 88 candidates for the remaining 16 seats. The elections will begin in about an hour, and will end tonight at 2030.

Moda'i Wants No 2 Likud Spot

TA251742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT

25 Apr 84

[Text] Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who was elected this evening to head the Liberal Party Knesset list, has expressed the hope that he would be the number two man on the Likud list if the Likud forms the government after the elections. Minister Moda'i told our correspondent Amnon Nadav that he expects that as a token of gratitude for his success in the contest in his party, the Herut Party will give up its demand to make changes in the GAHAL [Liberal-Herut bloc coalition] agreement. He said the Liberals

will be prepared to hold negotiations on this only after the Knesset election.

He also expressed the hope that the Liberals under his leadership will from now on adopt a more independent line in the Likud, while maintaining their commitment to the Likud and the government.

Savior Candidacy Falls Short

TA260528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT

26 Apr 84

[Text] Three Liberal Party Knesset members will not be candidates for the next Knesset: Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor, Dror Zeigerman, and Tzvi Rener. This emerged at the end of the vote count at the party center. Our correspondents Amnon Nadav and Asher Schwartz report that the 16 candidates elected include Energy Ministry Director General Uri'el Linn, Naftali Nir, and former MK Moshe Miron. All the party's ministers were elected and Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir received the highest number of votes. Sharir will be put in third place, after Ministers Moda'i and Nisim, who had earlier competed for the Liberal Party leadership.

MAPAM Elects Shemtov, Granot, Tzaban To Head List

TA251654 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1630 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 25 Apr (ITIM) — The MAPAM personnel committee, which has 26 members, today elected its list of candidates for the 11th Knesset and posts in the recommended government and will present this list to the MAPAM center that will meet for an extraordinary session on 9 May 1984 to hold the final election of the candidates. The following are the first eight candidates, in the order of popularity of votes: The list is headed by MAPAM Secretary General Victor Shemtov who was unanimously elected ex officio to head the list, followed by: Eli'ezar Granot, Ya'ir Tzaban, Haya Grossman, Muhammad Watad, Binyamin Yas'ur, Moshe 'Amar, and Dov Zakin. The four places after them were given to: Naftali Ben-Moshe, Elisha' Shapira, Sabri Khuri, and 'Aliza Shefi. At the end of the list are: Me'ir Ya'ari, Ya'akov Hazan, and Lola Kovlanov. The personnel committee suggested Dov Peled of the Kibbutz Ha'artzi Movement and Hilel Ashkenazi from the urban members of MAPAM to serve as ministers in the government that will be set up under the Alignment.

MAPAM Secretary General Victor Shemtov, who is the chairman of the personnel committee, particularly noted the fact that many members proposed themselves, to show that a new, young leadership is emerging in MAPAM. Among those candidates the following should be noted: Mikha'el Asulin from 'Afula, Efrayim Qoren who is the deputy mayor of Holon, Aviram Me'ir from Jerusalem, Yonatan de Vries from Ramat Gan, Hayim Zehavi from Yeroham, Eytan Melnick who is a member of the Jerusalem municipal council, and Dr Perla Peres from Jerusalem. Particular notice should be given to the candidacy of Avshalom Vilan from Kibbutz Negba, who is a "Peace Now" activist, and the candidacy of Ran Hakim from Kibbutz 'En Hashofet.

MK Ben-Me'ir Will Not Run on NRP List

*TA251807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir will not run on the National Religious Party [NRP] list for the next Knesset. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Ben-Me'ir is not pleased with the list that is slowly being shaped in accordance with the plan devised by Chief Rabbi Shapira.

Tehiya Movement, TZOMET Decide To Merge

*TA252109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] The Tehiya Movement has merged with TZOMET [Movement for the Revival of Zionism]. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that the Tehiya secretariat this evening approved the agreement with Refa'el Eytan's TZOMET. However, the formation of the Knesset list has been postponed until next week.

Herut Delegation 'Secretly' Visits FRG

*TA251723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] A delegation of Herut Movement members secretly visited the FRG early this month, and asked that the visit not be reported in the media. Our Bonn correspondent David Witzthum has learned that the delegation did not include MK's, but only lower-level activists, whose members met, among others, with Bundestag and Foreign Ministry personalities, and visited the Dachau concentration camp. The delegation was invited by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

The Israeli Embassy in Bonn, which was aware of the visit, refused to either confirm or deny the report.

Interior Ministry Sanctions May Affect Elections

*TA261101 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
26 Apr 84 p 3*

[Text] Interior Ministry staff this morning resumed their sanctions and are threatening to severely obstruct the conduct of the elections.

The ministry workers came out yesterday with the sudden announcement that beginning today, they would again consider sanctions. They would not answer telephone inquiries and they would not, among other things, accept appeals from persons whose names have not been included on the voting rolls. Persons applying for passports and other official documents would also be adversely affected.

The Interior Ministry employees announced yesterday, through the national council which met in Jerusalem, that they were renewing their sanctions since the Civil Service Commission was dragging its feet in everything pertaining to the agreements

already reached between workers and management on equalizing the workers' pay and status with those of employees in other ministries. Legal circles pointed out yesterday that nonacceptance of appeals from the public could cause the elections to be postponed, and will enable people to contend that they were deprived of their legal right to appeal their noninclusion in the voting register.

IDF Kill Two Lebanese in An-Nabatiyah

*TA261328 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1325 GMT
26 Apr 84*

[Text] Two Lebanese from the town of An-Nabatiyah were killed this afternoon from shots of IDF soldiers. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the two Lebanese were hit when the soldiers of the patrol shot toward the direction from which a hand grenade was thrown at them. None of the IDF soldiers were injured. The IDF forces have sealed off the area and are conducting searches.

Soldier Injured in An-Nabatiyah Explosion

*TA252012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] A soldier sustained very slight injuries this evening near An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon, when an explosive charge went off just as an IDF convoy was passing by. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the soldier was treated on the spot and returned to his unit. The charge was triggered by an electric device. The IDF forces are currently searching the area.

No 'Extraordinary Activity' by IDF in Lebanon

*TA251713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] The IDF is not fortifying its units in Lebanon and is likewise not carrying out any extraordinary activity beyond what has been planned for this season. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal today toured the eastern sector of Lebanon, and reported that the Syrians, too, are not showing any signs of strengthening their forces or altering their deployment.

Senior officers in the sector have told our correspondent that the reports that the forces are receiving reinforcements are surprising, as are allegations that the sector is heating up. They claim that the IDF is maintaining routine activity and even when it rotates units, it does so in the open.

Our correspondent adds that the terrorists in the eastern sector are continuing to entrench themselves in the Syrian deployment lines, and their command posts can be found in the midst of the armored units and the Syrian commando battalions.

IDF Predicts Increase in Terrorist Attacks

TA250921 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Apr 84 p 3

[Report by Shim'on Rappaport]

[Text] Attacks in the western sector of Lebanon increased in March. Compared with the previous month, there were almost twice as many of them. Officials in the field expect that as the weather improves, the number of attacks in the Tyre-Sidon-An-Nabatiyah triangle will increase.

Senior officers in the sector estimate that there would have been an even higher number of attacks had it not been for the unusual combat methods used to increase control over the area. The main effort is being put into an attempt to undermine the terrorists' confidence.

"In every briefing given to soldiers, I repeat that we will never have the luxury of firing the first shot. However, the second shot must be immediate and it must hit the target," a senior officer in one of the rear formations in the Tyre-Sidon sector said. "The terrorists' main advantage lies in the fact that they have no hesitation whatsoever about the target; they identify IDF soldiers without any difficulty during patrols and they have no pangs of conscience if innocent civilians are hit during the shooting."

The local population is not giving the terrorists active help, and most of them follow a policy of "I did not hear, I did not see," out of fear of being struck by the extremists' acts of revenge.

"We are in an unprecedented situation in Lebanon. We have to develop original combat methods and think creatively to contend with these squads," a senior officer said. It is true that commanders in the field are trying out unusual combat methods, learning lessons from one attack to another. Much attention is being given to high mobility of forces so that it is possible to bring considerable forces to the region of terrorist attacks on short notice and close off the area.

Senior commanders have learned the lessons of the Americans' "war against guerrillas" in Vietnam and Latin America. The lessons have been analyzed and conclusions drawn: "Nothing is exactly suitable for the situation in Lebanon. However, we can learn from others experience what does not work at all," a senior officer said. Original methods have already been put into practice in the western sector, and in the officers' opinion they have proved efficient in narrowing the terrorists' moves and preventing free activity by the local population.

Lubrani, Junblatt Discuss Curbing Arms Flow to South

TA251910 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] Uri Lubrani, who coordinates government activities in Lebanon, has met with Druze leader Walid Junblatt, and the two discussed ways to curb the flow of arms to southern Lebanon.

Junblatt on 'Problem' of Southern Lebanon

TA260851 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
26 Apr 84 p 1

[“Exclusive” report by Paris correspondent Gid'on Kuts]

[Excerpt] "The problem of southern Lebanon will be given priority once a national unity government is formed in Lebanon. Such a government is likely to be established within a matter of days, a week at most. I have asked President Mitterrand to ensure that France will play an important role within the context of the United Nations and UNIFIL to guarantee the independence of southern Lebanon and the security of its border with Israel." This was stated to DAVAR by Druze leader Walid Junblatt at the conclusion of his talk with President Mitterrand in the Elysee Palace.

In reply to a question by the DAVAR correspondent whether he would agree to negotiate directly with Israel regarding its pullout from southern Lebanon, Walid Junblatt replied that this would be done within a UN framework.

Israeli Druze Enjoy Freedom of Worship, Prosperity

TA251247 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] Today the Druze community in Israel is celebrating the Nabi Shu-eib festival. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that thousands of Druze from villages in the Galilee, on the Carmel Heights and the Golan Heights have assembled at the prophet's burial site in Kefar Hittim, along with several hundred Druze clerics from Lebanon, mainly from the vicinity of Hasbaya. The spiritual leader of the Druze in Israel, Shaykh Amin Tarif, said that the Druze in Israel enjoy complete freedom of worship, and thanks to Israel, the Druze community has achieved a hitherto unprecedented state of prosperity.

Large Explosive Device Dismantled in Jerusalem

TA260610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT
26 Apr 84

[Text] A large explosive device was safely dismantled in Jerusalem this morning, in the Giv'at Sha'ul industrial zone near the Angel Bakery. The Jerusalem District police commander has reiterated his call on the public to increase alertness.

ASH-SHA'B on Means To Confront United States

JN250943 Jerusalem ASH-SHA'B in Arabic
22 Apr 84 p 1

[Editorial "A U.S. Declaration"]

[Text] At the same time Ronald Reagan claims that his administration opposes the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, his envoys, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES yesterday, launch threats to the socialist European states to reduce their support for the PLO as a condition for improving these states' relations with Washington.

These threats that the U.S. Department of State declined to deny yesterday constitute an insolent interference in these states' affairs and give further proof of the extent of the hostility of the U.S. Administration's policy toward the Palestinian question.

Unfortunately, at a time when Washington insolently and flagrantly continues its hostility to the Palestinian Arab rights, the Islamic and Arab states decline to adopt the Palestinian ideas calling for a direct clash with the United States — ideas which were proposed in the Palestinian working paper submitted to the Jerusalem Committee in Feb 3 days ago.

These new, but old, U.S. stands are a clear sign that the United States will continue to be the strategic enemy of our Palestinian people and the Arab peoples, and that the means to confront the United States are represented by a violent clash with and a blow to its interests, because this is the only language that the White House understand.

AL-QUDS: Jerusalem Committee Resolutions 'Weak'

JN251032 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
22 Apr 84 p 1

[Editorial: "These Weak Resolutions"]

[Text] The Jerusalem Committee has issued a number of resolutions to be added to the piles of resolutions previously issued by the same Committee and other similar committees for many years. All the meetings held and the resolutions passed have only resulted in a continuous retreat of the Palestine question.

The issue of Jerusalem and the Israeli occupation and practices from which the city is suffering have all of a sudden been represented in the transfer of some embassies from Tel Aviv to the holy city. Hence, the Jerusalem Committee resolutions, article by article, focused on dealing with this grave, fateful topics, which is depicted as the only one that is preoccupying Jerusalem.

One of the easiest things one can do when he does not want to work is to contract a major issue and put it in a small bottle, imagining that by doing this he has diagnosed and is curing the problem. All forget that the issue of Jerusalem cannot be confined to a small framework like that of the problem of the embassies' transfer.

It was such weak resolutions that led to successive Arab setbacks, brought about the current situation in the holy city, and encouraged the various sides and states that want to please Israel, including El Salvador and Costa Rica and, both before and after them, the United States, to ignore the Arab will and Arab consensus. How long will these committees continue to issue such resolutions and how can they justify to their peoples the weakness for these resolutions."

Paper Reports Jordan Hands Over Palestinian to IDF

JN251024 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
17 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] On 26 February 1984, the Jordanian intelligence organs summoned Samir al-Hilu, an engineer from Jericho residing in Jordan, and asked him for information about his activities in the PFLP and his participation in two military courses in Libya and the GDR.

After refusing to cooperate with the Jordanian intelligence, he was threatened that he would be handed over to the Israeli authorities. However, he did not change his mind and two Jordanian policemen escorted him to the bridge and handed him over to the Israeli army. He is now in the military jail of Ramallah pending his trial for the abovementioned charges and for his participation in the Lebanese war.

AL-ANBA' on Reasons Behind Syrian War Threats

JN250734 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT
25 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *AL-ANBA'* which is published in Jerusalem says: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was not exaggerating yesterday when he expressed his concern over Syria's repeated statements which emphasize that the situation between Syria and Israel is about to explode into a new war. The paper adds: What makes these statements increasingly dangerous is that the situation on the Israeli front is very normal. Israel has not massed any additional forces there and senior Israeli commanders have confirmed and are confirming that they prefer firm peace with Syria and have no intention at all of launching any attack on it.

The paper continues: Past experiences have proved that by massing forces Syria does not intend to start war, but to obtain checks in hundreds of millions in hard currencies. It also wants to involve others in war as it did during the 6-day war when it pushed the Egyptians into war with the Israelis.

AL-ANBA' says: The question that poses itself these days is: Which Arab states does Damascus want to involve in war through its repeated statements? Could the objective also be to heighten tension to the point of preventing Jordan from joining the peace process and at the same time benefit from the cool relations between Egypt and Israel by shaking the peace between them?

The paper concludes its editorial by expressing its belief that Damascus could well be planning a game the main reason for which is the bad internal situation in Syria and the power struggle to succeed the ailing Al-Asad.

'Observers' on Arms to Central America

TA251846 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] In Jerusalem Israeli observers say reports of the Israeli connection in Central America raise several questions. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] The observers see the Israeli arms story and El Salvador's embassy decision as an American tactic to link Israel with Reagan administration policies. This at a time the administration faces stiff opposition from both the Congress and public opinion over its Central American role.

First that statement by Nicaraguan rebel leader Enrique Bermudez that Israel is supplying his forces with weapons. Why would the rebel leader disclose the arms source in the first place? The CIA runs a tight reign over the rebels' operation, and it is highly unlikely he would have talked about Israeli arms without CIA approval or encouragement. The observers see the United States then as trying to link Israel with the administration's policy in Central America. Israel categorically denied the rebel leader's statement. One Israeli source has pointed to what he called the vagaries of the international arms market, saying that once arms go into circulation, they can end up anywhere.

El Salvador's decision to move its embassy back to Jerusalem works in another way: El Salvador, dependent upon American aid to fight insurgent forces, would not likely make the embassy move without U.S. approval, particularly at a time the Reagan administration is blocking a Congressional campaign to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. But paradoxically the El Salvador move serves the administration's interests. Officials can now point to the outcome and contend that Arab countries will also break off diplomatic relations with Washington if the United States also moved its embassy to Jerusalem. [end recording]

Costa Rican President To Visit 'Soon'

TA240927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT
24 Apr 84

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge will visit Israel soon. This was learned by our correspondent Mikha'el Miro. The Costa Rican ambassador to Israel, Eduardo Jenkins, today presented his credentials to the president. The ambassador said that the decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem is completely reasonable, and he expressed sorrow that the Arabs do not understand this.

President Herzog said that it is good to see that there are countries in the world that are not willing to receive diktats from the Arab world.

Closer Scientific Ties With South Africa Planned

TA260853 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Apr 84 p 3

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Text] Israel and South Africa will strengthen their scientific and research ties. This was agreed yesterday between the minister of science and development, Professor Yuval Ne'eman, and South Africa's ambassador to Israel, David du Buisson, who called on the minister in his office in Jerusalem.

At the meeting it was stated that Ben Gurion University in the Negev will hold a scientific conference in May. This conference is a joint Israeli-South African project and will be attended by a large number of participants, including a sizeable delegation of South African figures. The two countries have held 14 joint scientific symposiums in recent years, 5 of them in South Africa.

Peace Now Delegation in Egypt Meets Ghali

TA251517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] A Peace Now delegation currently visiting Cairo has urged launching a vigorous dialogue between academicians, intellectuals, and journalists in Egypt and Israel to thaw the ties between the two countries. In the opinion of the delegation members, such a dialogue is essential for the continuation of the peace process and for the implementation of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The delegation met today with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali for a 90-minute conference. One of the delegation members, Prof Yoram Ben-Porat of Hebrew University, later told reporters that he had asked Minister Ghali to support developing the ties and commercial relations between the two countries to encourage moderate trends in the Israeli society.

The delegation members will also confer with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and with the Egyptian president's senior adviser, Usamah al-Baz.

LIBYA

UK Contrived Bureau Incident To Please U.S.

LD260500 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic
0125 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The Thatcher government decided to sever relations with the Jamahiriya unilaterally. This measure came after a week-long siege imposed by the British police equipped with weapons and helicopters on the Libyan People's Bureau at St James' Square in the heart of London, after the terrorist attack to which the Bureau was subjected by a band of the lowest of the low under the protection of the British police itself.

Most political observers believe that the crisis of the St James' Square incident was preplanned and organized by the British political and security quarters to please Washington and to implement the Reagan administration's demand, made towards the end of last year, that the United States' European allies follow its suit by boycotting the Jamahiriya diplomatically and imposing an overall economic and cultural blockade on it by depriving it from advanced technological equipment.

It seems that Britain, which is known for its transformation into a British colony since the end of the World War II, was looking for some pretext to please its U.S. ally, and contrived the St James incident. The leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, stated in the press conference held on Friday, 20 April 1984, that Britain wanted to follow the United States' suit and close the Libyan Arab People's Bureau. In Britain, the British Revolutionary Workers Party, in a statement issued on Saturday, 21 April 1984, announced that Britain, with the assistance of the U.S. CIA and the Thatcher government, has become a center for hatching plots against Libya and manipulating the escaped elements which have committed crimes against the Libyan people to serve their objectives and plans.

Political observers note that the United States blessed the British decision minutes after it was issued. The White House spokesman announced that the decision taken by the Thatcher government was very suitable and that the Reagan administration supported the decision without reservation. It is worth noting that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz announced his unparalleled support to the siege imposed by the British police on the Libyan Arab People's Bureau. Moreover, he said that he was convinced that bullets were fired from the Bureau without waiting to see what would happen, which made one paper write that the Reagan administration's strong hatred of the Jamahiriya has made this administration lose objectivity, wisdom, and balance and begin acting haphazardly.

Events at People's Bureau 'Provocation Campaign'

LD252242 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic
2015 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Now that several days of events have passed at the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London, all indications point to the fact that what has happened was only part of the wide-scale provocation campaign hatched and planned by the United States

to inflame rancor and hatred against the Jamahiriya under the canopy of lies and slander to brand it with the charge of so-called terrorism and to distort its image in the world and consequently prepare favorable grounds through which Ronald Reagan as he approaches the final days of his presidency, can spit his venom and retaliate for his personal vendettas. Ronald Reagan is the man who claimed without feeling any shame or embarrassment that Al-Qadhafi has sent a team of revolutionaries to assassinate him at the White House gates. He is also the man who said that the Libyan dossier will remain open until he succeeds in bringing Libya's revolution to its knees and convince it of the need to turn its back on its people and retreat from all its aspirations for progress, ambition, and emancipation from the age of backwardness.

According to political commentators and news agencies, it was no accident that this filthy operation should coincide with the intensification of the campaign against Libya in the United States. For on the day after the London events, Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, declared to American television USA that Libya sows sedition throughout the world. It was also no accident that the United States rushed to the rostrum of lies and fabrication which it uses whenever the eyes of the world focus on important events to say without shame that one of its satellites — this is an implicit confession of spying on the world countries — had picked up coded signals between Tripoli and the Libyan Arab People's Bureau; they built up this allegation, persisting in treachery and continuing to harp on this treacherous tune with a noise that deafens the ears.

This complete British submission to the will of the American godfather, the execution of his wishes without question, and the unilateral severance of relations do not exempt Britain from responsibility for the grave consequences that will result from its expulsion of Libyan Arab citizens, students, the sick, and the young students.

Britain knows that when it rejects the tolerance and open-heartedness shown by the Jamahiriya in dealing with matters, Britain will be the one that will lose the most. The Jamahiriya has nothing to lose. Britain will be responsible for the harm that will come to the interests of the British people while the Jamahiriya will suffer no harm. Because of its free will and independent decisionmaking, Libya has the whole world market ready to export technology which the Libyan Arab people need to ensure their prosperity and continue their march forward toward complete prosperity.

The Jamahiriya has succeeded through its revolution in breaking the shackles that tied it to the bandwagons of the spheres of influence and has realized where to tread as it moves energetically toward new horizons. Libya today is beyond the boundaries of possible blackmail which imperialism possessed. Today, Libya has freedom and potential in its people who possess authority, wealth, and arms.

Since Britain has brandished the sword of severing relations, will Libya be harmed by this reckless decision which reflects nothing but stubbornness and foolishness?

Events at the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London, which are intended to be used as a pretext for waging a series of imperialist measures against the Jamahiriyyah — and Britain has already begun this series of measures — will be known. The entire minute details of these events will become known soon. It will emerge as a scandal like many imperialist scandals.

Indeed, some consciences have begun to wake up and to rush to reveal the facts and to place them before the public opinion. The immense information presented by the British journalist David Scot Johnson is insufficient to convict the culprits. This journalist has unmasked branding facts. What the British paper *NEWS-LINE* has written of analyses and investigations also points the finger of accusation at the culprits and raises questions about the seizing of the opportunity by British Prime Minister Thatcher and her foreign minister to implement the operation at a time when the home secretary and senior security officials enjoy complete freedom to make decisions.

Britain has agreed to become the scapegoat in the interest of all those who imagine they can punish the Jamahiriyyah because of its liberated policy, its call for antagonizing imperialism and colonialism, and its launching of counterattacks against the interests of countries which exercise occupation, looting, and persecution. This attitude brings dishonor to Britain — if it still has any honor — and detracts from its dignity. As we have been hearing, it is a big power, a modern and civilized country. Perhaps honor and dignity are of no value to the modern and civilized big countries. No force on the face of the earth can stand in the way of the will of the revolution, thought, and creed.

Jallud Role in Junblatt-Qulaylat Reconciliation Eyed

LD251416 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Reconciliation was reached in Damascus last Sunday between Brothers Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party, and Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement Al-Murabitun. This reconciliation was achieved as a result of urgent efforts made by the Jamahiriyyah out of its concern for the unity of the national Islamic national struggle in Lebanon and the confrontation of all conspiracies which aim at striking against the Arab nationalist revolutionary line and at inhibiting the masses' victories on the Lebanese and Arab arenas. Staff Major Jallud, who spent about a week in Damascus, attended this reconciliation.

Staff Major Jallud himself announced the reaching of this reconciliation between Brothers Walid Junblatt and Ibrahim Qulaylat before the press in Damascus the day before yesterday. Staff Major Jallud called for the unity of the Islamic pan-Arab nationalist struggle in Lebanon, denouncing the attempts by imperialism and reaction to break up this fighting unit which has aborted the imperialist conspiracies in Lebanon in the form of the presence of NATO forces and surrender agreements. He said that the imperialist and reactionary forces are trying to exploit some of the mistakes which occur within the patriotic front and to escalate them, and try to use them to strike at the nationalist revolutionary and progressive forces. Staff Major Jallud reaffirmed that the Jamahiriyyah stands with all the nationalist

pan-Arab revolutionary strugglers in Lebanon and against attempts to consolidate sectarianism.

At the end of the meeting Brothers Junblatt and Qulaylat shook hands, announcing reconciliation and an end to the exaggerated and much-publicized differences between them.

MAURITANIA

Foreign-Backed Secret Organization Discovered

LD260041 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Conclusive evidence has now been obtained concerning the sabotage activities and the criminal acts practiced by a secret organization whose leading members were captured last month. This occurred through the investigations carried out by the national police authorities. The cadres and aims of this organization have now been discovered, as well as the nature of the organization's operations, methods of work, sources, relations, and internal and external alliances. All these were publicly exhibited today. Our colleague (Mohamed Mokhtar Ould Yadi) gives us details:

The exhibition organized by the national police authorities shows that these were very serious events. An arsenal of equipment, documents and other convincing evidence were found with the conspirators. Through this discovery we uncovered a well organized movement which has its own charter, internal system, and general guidelines and which is in its very nature against the government and, moreover, attempts to destroy it.

It seems that the movement held its own conference, as the press was shown documents concerning discussions that took place during the general conference. In addition, the minutes of meetings and reports of missions and periodic internal letters belonging to the movement were found. This does not leave any place for doubt concerning its highly organized nature and its large number of branches. In addition to all this, this secret movement has a distinctive structure. For instance, it has its own court of justice which examines the behavior of its members; it has already issued a number of sentences. This internal structure has its branches abroad, which ensures coordination with members abroad or with its foreign representatives who act directly through a foreign embassy in Nouakchott. The list of embassy members was found among the documents of the movement found by the police authorities. In addition to the movement's (?contacts) with foreign countries, there is a network of relations which connects it with other secret anti-government organizations, such as the Alliance for Democratic Mauritania, AMD, whose charters were found among the exhibited documents.

This secret organization is considered to be financially well off, as it has accounts in a bank in Nouakchott. The police have obtained evidence of contributions to the movement given by a foreign country. This consists of blank checks and remittance statements. The finances of the movement have reached a high level of organization, as the draft budget of the organization has been found.

Therefore, we can see clearly that this well-constructed secret organization, which has adequate means, wants for nothing to take steps in actual practice, for which it has spared no means. At this level, also, the discovery is a lesson. The press was able to see the equipment used by the conspirators. First, there are the typewriters and the (?printing) machines used for various publications, such as leaflets and propaganda documents. There were also, and this is more important, huge propaganda materials, including recordings, books, texts, lectures, ideological materials, etc. For reasons which concern the investigation some of the other important documents cannot be made public, because some members of the movement have left their place of work and disappeared.

Therefore, the equipment found was producing a wide range of propaganda aimed at incriminating and recruiting enthusiasts for their lost cause, people who can easily be put in the trenches of organized action. This destructive propaganda, which is based on rumors and lies, does not miss a chance — and even creates its own chances — to bring disrepute to the government, harm the people and distract public opinion from its honorable interests and in order to trap it in the network of conspiracy.

In this connection it used Mauritania's decision to recognize the SDAR as a pretext to unsettle the country. The campaign waged by the movement sought to plant the idea of Mauritania's definite return to the desert war as an implicit aim and direct result of this decision. The real aims of this decision were distorted and used as evidence of the rashness of the country's leaders and their submission to the pressure of foreign forces. From this starting point, the evil forces resorted to the propaganda campaign to which the people responded with ridicule and disgust. Next they resorted to a second scheme, which is to stir up disturbances in the streets in order to give the impression of popular unrest and to force public opinion to accept their arguments.

This, in particular, explains the recent attempt to organize strikes in the schools, strikes in which the National Union of Mauritanian Students and trainees, which is the legitimate authority for defending the material and spiritual interests of the students, was used by deviating it from its original mission. These tactics were not restricted to the Mauritanian students union, which were considered, according to a report found on the conspirators, as the best way to trigger disturbances in the battle in 1984. The planners for this organization took into consideration (?obtaining information) about some institutions, such as the Mauritanian Workers Union, the MAURITANIAN PRESS AGENCY, and the structures of educating the masses, with the intention of using the legitimacy of these institutions, after capturing them through organized and planned infiltration by the members of the movement, as a front for sabotage and destruction according to the interests and aims of the organization.

Now we can imagine the extent of the damage that would have occurred by this entrapment and deviation, especially for the structures that educate the masses and for the Mauritanian Workers Union, because of their great influence and their spiritual, social and economic weight. However, the workers were quickly alerted to this imminent danger and confronted it, which led to serious disputes that would have destroyed the trade union center had it not been for the commitment of the majority of the

trade union members to the interests of the Mauritanian Workers Union in particular and the country in general.

All the attempts of these (?conspirators) to drag the workers into disturbances have failed abominably, as proved by the statement published by the trade union center, and which led to the truth being revealed and the workers alerted to the danger against them in the disturbances planned by the secret movement. Concerning the structures that educate the masses, the stance of the saboteur organization was discovered among the documents. For them the structures were to fail. From this starting point came their plan to sway them by introducing into them cadres assigned to spread their ideology, options and convictions. But the citizens in all the institutions expelled them quickly. This made them wage campaigns against the philosophy and aims of the structures, and to deform their image in order to bring doubt and dispute into their ranks and kill their enthusiasm so that their mission of spreading understanding and education among the masses would fail. This matter clearly demonstrates the stance of this secret organization toward the national leadership.

The investigation has revealed that the movement, during the transition or preparatory stage of the sabotage action, was pretending to support the government by belonging to the structures. This occurred before moving to the second stage, during which the criminal intentions and the divisive behavior of the conspirators were not unknown to the intelligence authorities. This transition stage specifically occurred in October 1983, when the cadres of the movements received an order to freeze their activities until they received new orders. This meant entering the stage of sabotaging the country and staging hostilities against the government. A memorandum to this effect was among the documents exhibited to the press. We can see that this stage occurred concurrently with a period of change of alliances within the region, and with the Mauritanian announcement on 28 November of its decision to recognize the SDAR if the resolution of the Addis Ababa summit concerning the self-determination of the Saharan people within the period specified by the African summit was not implemented.

We can see at that time the establishment of unexpected alliances within this conspiracy, which is directed by some countries of the region against the stability, security, and sovereignty of our country, which suffers from the tragic effects of the drought and which is preoccupied with finding solutions for its situation and needs aid and assistance rather than hostilities. The exploitation of these factors did not escape the enemies of our people, because they understood the definite difficulties of this year both economically and socially and tried to use them as an opportunity to incriminate the government and to place the responsibility for a natural crisis and the critical international economic situation which no country in the world has escaped on the shoulders of the government. Within this Machiavellian scheme, the conspirators tried with extensive propaganda to abort the efforts at national solidarity, which is an expression of the understanding of our people to the requirements of the current difficult period of our history, because these generous efforts were a difficult obstacle to their sabotaging schemes.

This is briefly what this discovery sheds light upon. It clearly incriminates these mercenaries and their assistants. In addition,

it must be remembered that the investigation is still going on and might reveal additional proof which will underline the treachery of these mercenaries.

Here we should praise our security forces, who were cleverly and efficiently able to discover the system and practices of this outlaw movement. This also proves the need for all Mauritians to take responsibility in defending the national interest and preserving the achievements of our people within the enlightened policy of the national leadership under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala. The discovery of this treason is a strong blow to the enemies of the nation both at home and abroad and attests to the security capabilities of our country. To those who are planning to spread their control over it, it proves our determination to preserve our sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom in choosing our options whatever the price. Our people must stand as one man to block the way of all attempts at sabotage. They must utilize their rich experience and historic heroism to double the alert in a world full of the selfishness, domination and whims of some wicked people and countries.

MOROCCO

Legislative Elections To Be Held 14 Sep

LD252116 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, today in the Royal Palace in Fes, presided over a cabinet meeting. The discussions, during the meeting were dedicated for studying the fiscal law for 1984 and approval it. The minister of finance will offer explanations concerning this law next Friday.

After this cabinet meeting his majesty presided over a mini-cabinet meeting, which was attended by the prime minister, Mr Mohamed Karim Lamrani, the ministers of state, Ahmed Osman, Maati Bouabid, Abderrahim Bouabid, M'hammed Bah-nini, M'Hamed Boucetta, Mahjoubi Aherdane, Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, and Mohamed Arsalan El Jadidi, as well as Mr Ahmed Reda Guedira, his majesty's adviser. During this meeting his majesty set Friday, 14 September, as the date of the coming legislative elections.

WESTERN SAHARA

Moroccan Deployment, Fighting Near Zaag Noted

LD251922 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] The Saharan Arab Democratic Republic again notes the deployment since 19 April of more than 30,000 Moroccan troops on the Moroccan-Saharan border.

The SDAR Information Ministry in a communique published today mentions also violent fighting south of Zaag, a town situated in the border area: 50 soldiers are reported to have been killed and many others injured and a large amount of war equipment destroyed on the Moroccan side.

The communique adds: This battle shows, should there be any need, the determination of the Saharan people to continue and step up its struggle to secure the observance of its rights.

ETHIOPIA

EPLF Reports 227 Government Soldiers Killed

*EA251222 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1115 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] Reports we have received from the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] office in Mogadishu disclose that the Front's fighters launched fierce attacks on Abyssinian enemy bases near (Senafia) town between 22-23 of this month. In the attack the fighters inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, killing 130 soldiers and capturing 38 others, including a captain. They also captured 64 light weapons.

On 20 of this month, EPLF fighters engaged in fierce fighting with the enemy forces on the outskirts of (Senafia) and (Salam-bus) towns, killing 97 Abyssinian soldiers and wounding 92 others. In the fighting, which lasted 6 hours, 32 rifles and 1 radio communication set type DRS-77 were captured.

KENYA

UAE's Shaykh Zayid Arrives in Nairobi, Met by Moi

*EA251807 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Summary] The President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Zayid ibn Sultan, arrived at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport at 1500 today for a 3-day state visit to Kenya and was accorded a red carpet welcome and dignified reception by his host, President Moi.

Moi Receives New Zambian High Commissioner

EA251218 Nairobi KNA in English 0845 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Nairobi, 25 Apr (KNA) — President Daniel arap Moi today urged independent African states to strive to preserve their freedom which many people have yearned for many years. He was speaking at State House, Nairobi after receiving credentials from the new high commissioner of Zambia to Kenya, Mr Willie Robert Mwendela.

The president paid tribute to Zambia for enduring suffering while supporting the freedom struggle of countries in southern Africa such as Zimbabwe. This endurance, said the president, was a clear manifestation of Zambia's patriotism and commitment to the freedom of mother Africa. He assured that Kenya supported Zambia fully in her cause of African freedom.

Ugandan 'Harassment' Causes Transportation Boycott

EA251908 Nairobi KNA in English 1645 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Busia, April 25 (KNA) — Over a hundred transit goods and petrol transport trailers have parked at Busia border town, the drivers having refused to proceed into Uganda. The drivers have demanded a firm assurance for their security while on Ugandan soil before they can resume the journey to their des-

tinuation in Uganda and countries beyond. The spokesman for the drivers claimed in an interview with KNA Busia that many trailer drivers were being harassed by security officials manning the road blocks along Uganda road. He said the security officials at the roadblocks snatched all their personal effects including foodstuffs, money, and beat up those who resist. Others have even lost lives in the process, he added.

The drivers vowed not to proceed unless the Uganda Government gave an assurance on their safety when crossing Uganda. The spokesman said a similar action had been taken by the drivers using Malaba border route, adding that the vehicles stopped crossing the border since Friday April 20. Among the trailers that have jammed Busia border town are those ferrying all types of petroleum including aviation fuel to Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire and Sudan.

SOMALIA

Students Demonstrate Against Education Minister

*EA252128 (Clandestine) Radio Hagan in Somali
to Somalia 1800 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] Reports reaching us from the capital of the country, Mogadishu, say that at the beginning of this week, over 1300 students from the Benadir High School staged demonstrations opposing the dictatorial government led by Mohamed Siad Barre.

The students strongly condemned the regime and showed how the regime of Siad Barre has destroyed the educational system of the country and also how the regime has damaged badly all sectors such as the economic, political, and social systems of the country. The demonstrating students threw stones and bottles at the official residence of the regime's so-called Minister of Education Abdurahman Abdulle Osman. The students caused extensive damage to the house. The students also damaged several foreign embassies in Mogadishu and set fire to and damaged several government vehicles in the town. The reports add that over 250 demonstrating students have been arrested by the repressive organs of the regime. This action by the students of the Benadir High School has caused great concern to the regime. Informed sources say that the regime fears that the demonstration might spread to other institutions throughout the country.

TANZANIA

Mengistu Arrives for Anniversary Celebrations

*EA251755 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
1400 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] The Ethiopian head of state and current chairman of the OAU, Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, arrived in Dar es Salaam this afternoon to attend celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the United Republic of Tanzania. Ndugu Mengistu was met at the Dar es Salaam Airport by his host, President Nyerere, and other party and government leaders.

CAMEROON

President Biya Receives Ministers, Businessmen

*AB251845 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] The following personalities were received in audience by the head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya, between 10 and 19 April: Mr Ayang Luc, president of the Economic and Social Council; Mr Christian Nucci, French cooperation and development minister; Mr Ekobi Ewane, member of the Cameroonian National Union's [CNU] Central Committee; Mr Egbetabi Emmanuel, roving ambassador; Mr (Gervenks), businessman; Mr Sengat Kuoh Francois, minister of information and culture; Mr Gilbert Andze Tchoungui, minister of state in charge of the Armed Forces; Mr Mbella Mbape Robert, minister of posts and telecommunications; Honorable S. T. Muna, president of the National Assembly; Mr (Cartier), businessman; Mr Bol Alima Gilbering, minister of higher education and scientific research; Mr (Saban Lekoi), political secretary of the Central Committee of the CNU Party; Mr Yousouf Daouda, minister of state for plan and regional development [title as heard]; Mr Ferdinand Oyono, Cameroon's ambassador to Algeria; Mr de la Renodiere, World Bank president [title as heard]; and Mr Lucien Francis, director general of Union of Banks in Paris.

Inquiry Into Coup Attempt Hears Witnesses

AB251535 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Yaounde, April 25 (AFP) — An adviser to President Paul Biya, a member of the Central Committee of the ruling party, and state company heads were among people arrested or questioned in the wake of the attempted coup here on April 6, informed sources said. The company chiefs included Cameroon Airlines President Amadou Bello and the director-general of the State Electricity Company, Marcel Njifenji Niat, the sources said. As the official inquiry into the coup continued, hearing a large number of witnesses according to the state radio, it [words indistinct] meanwhile announced that Issas Adoum, one of the first civilians implicated in the coup attempt, had been dismissed from his post as director-general of the Rural Development Fund. The official *CAMEROON TRIBUNE* reported today that he had been selected by the rebels to be president after the overthrow of Mr Biya.

In the view of observers, President Biya's statement after the defeat of the coup that those responsible did not come from any particular ethnic or religious group seems to have been confirmed by the commission's enquiries.

Mr Njifenji Niat and the National Union of Cameroon (UNC) Central Committee member Andre Sohaing are both Bamilekes from the southwest, while Technical Adviser to the President Ekedi Samnick is a Bassa from Douala. Their questioning seems to belie assertions by Armed Forces Minister Gilbert Andze Tsoungui and Chief of Staff General Pierre Semengue that the coup leaders were all from the Muslim north, former President Ahmadou Ahidjo's power base. The coup was staged by members of the Republican Guard. A reliable source said a large number

of soldiers of junior rank who had taken (?part in the) rebellion have been released. Officially 1,053 "rebels" had been arrested, including Republican Guard Commander Colonel Saleh Ibrahim. Meanwhile, questions were being raised on the role and activities of the ruling UNC Party during the rebellion, which was put down by loyalist troops after more than 24 hours of fierce fighting in Yaounde. The weekly *REPUBLICAIN* noted that the numerous messages of support for President Biya from UNC branches only started coming in "when it was all over."

Development Fund Official Dismissed 24 Apr

*AB251815 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 24 Apr 84*

[Text] By presidential decree signed today, Mr Issa Adoum has been dismissed from his post as director general of the National Fund for Rural Development, Fonader.

Adamawa Provincial Governor Replaced 25 Apr

*AB251545 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] By presidential decree signed today, Mr Mohammoudou Moussa has been appointed to replace Mr Amadou Maloum, as governor of the Adamawa Province.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

French, ROK, Belgian Envoys Present Credentials

AB251445 Paris AFP in French 1249 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Bangui, 25 Apr (AFP) — The ambassador of France, Jean Grossin, the ambassador of the Republic of Korea, (Yi Chong-su), and the ambassador of Belgium, Christian Deleu, presented their letters of credence on Wednesday to the CAR head of state, General Andre Kolingba. The entire 20-year diplomatic career of Jean Grossin has been spent in Africa. After serving as ambassador in Tunisia, Chad, the Ivory Coast, Madagascar, and Malawi, the CAR is the sixth African country where Mr Grossin is representing France.

ZAIRE

First Vice President Receives Israeli Envoy

*AB251725 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1641 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] Kinshasa, 25 Apr (AZAP) — Citizen Kititwa Tumansi, first vice president of the Central Committee Bureau, received Mikha'el Mikha'eli, Israel's ambassador to Zaire, on Wednesday at the Palais du Peuple. The ambassador was paying him a courtesy visit. The Israeli ambassador congratulated Citizen Kititwa Tumansi upon his appointment as first vice president of the Central Committee, which has taken place at an important period for Zaire, given the organization of the extraordinary congress of the MPR and the presidential elections. Mr Mikha'eli seized this opportunity to explain to the first vice president of the

Central Committee Bureau the workings of the election system in Israel. The two personalities also referred to the friendship between Presidents Mobutu Sese Seko and Herzog and the recent visit to Zaire by the Israeli head of state. They generally examined cooperation between the two countries.

DPRK Delegation Visits Factory, Academy

AB251750 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1645 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 25 Apr (AZAP) — The DPRK parliamentary delegation, which has been in Zaire since 21 April, on Wednesday visited the Calicot Printed Association [CPA] factory, accompanied by Bomandeke Bonyaka, second vice president of the Legislative Council. During the visit, Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, was given explanations on the factory's operations by I. Anson, CPA administrator, who said he was very much honored by his visit. On his part, Yang Hyong-sop said he was happy to visit the factory and wished the company much success. After visiting CPA, the DPRK parliamentary delegation went to the Academy of Fine Arts where they were given explanations on activities of the Academy and on the works which were exhibited there.

GHANA

PNDC Appoints New Regional Officials

*AB251846 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has recalled and appointed Colonel E.A. Baidoo, PNDC secretary for the Central Region. Colonel J.K. Amable, currently PNDC deputy secretary for Volta Region, has also been appointed substantive regional secretary for the region.

Other appointments are Mr Ibrahim Issaka Adam, deputy secretary for agriculture for the Northern Region; Mr L.K. Degbor, deputy secretary for Volta Region; Mr Daniel Sulemana Zakaria, deputy secretary for the Northern Region; and Major Ibrahim Bawa, operational assistant to the Ministry of Roads and Highways. All the appointments take immediate effect.

SWAPO's Nujoma Ends Visit, Leaves for Abidjan

*AB251847 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] The four-man delegation of the Central Committee of the Southwest Africa People's Organization, led by its leader, Mr Sam Nujoma, has ended its visit to Ghana. The delegation, which is on a tour of West Africa to brief the various governments on the Namibian struggle, has left for Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

While in the country, Mr Nujoma briefed the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, on the successes of SWAPO forces. He was grateful to Ghana for assistance in the Namibian liberation struggle.

The delegation was seen off by the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Guinea-Bissau President To Attend Maputo Summit

AB252025 Paris AFP in French 1851 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Bissau, 25 Apr (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira leaves Bissau tomorrow morning for Maputo (Mozambique) to attend an extraordinary summit meeting of Portuguese-speaking African countries, official sources in Bissau disclosed.

The head of state will be accompanied by his foreign affairs minister, Cabral de Almada; and Carlos Correia, commerce minister. The summit will be attended by the presidents of Cape Verde Islands, Angola, Mozambique, and of [name indistinct].

President Vieira is the current chairman of the conference of the heads of state of Portuguese-speaking African countries. The previous ordinary summit meeting was held in Bissau.

Liberia's Doe To Make Official Visit in May

AB251948 Paris AFP in French 1858 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Bissau, 25 Apr (AFP) — Liberian President Samuel Doe is to pay an official visit to Guinea-Bissau in May, sources close to the presidency of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau stated today. The date of the visit was not specified.

IVORY COAST

SWAPO's Nujoma Arrives in Abidjan

*AB252005 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] The president of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma, arrived in our country this morning at 0900. He was welcomed on arrival by Simeon Ake, minister of foreign affairs. The SWAPO leader is at this moment being received by the head of state. Report on this audience will be made in our subsequent newscasts, but it is likely that the discussions of the two statesmen will center on the latest developments in southern Africa.

Ghanaian Agricultural Minister Arrives for Talks

*AB251420 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT
25 April 84*

[Text] The Ghanaian minister of agriculture, John Ndeburgre, who arrived this morning in Abidjan for a 3-day official visit, had an audience with the head of state at his private Cocody residence before noon. In his declaration to the press, which we will broadcast tonight, the Ghanaian minister talked about the reinforcement of the cooperation bonds between our two countries and specially the preparation of the forthcoming discussions in London on the price of cocoa, of which our two countries are the major world producers.

LIBERIA

Loosening of Land Ownership Policy Proposed

*AB260845 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT
26 Apr 84*

[Text] A proposal that would grant non-Africans the right to land ownership in Liberia has been submitted to the council by the head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel Kanyon Doe. According to an Executive Mansion release, this move is being undertaken to adjust concerns consistently raised by foreign businessmen and investors about the land ownership in Liberia. The head of state was quoted by the release as saying that the proposal is yet another measure in government's determination to remedy Liberia's financial and economic difficulties and reduce the country's dependence on external assistance. The commander in chief then observed that most of those Liberians advocating the strict adherence to the traditional policy of restricting land ownership in Liberia to only people of African descent, have invested in their own real estate in Europe and the United States.

MALI

Two Financial Agreements Signed With France

*AB252230 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] Two financial agreements were signed this morning between the Government of the Republic of Mali and the Government of the French Republic. This first loan of about 20 million Malian francs falls within the framework of FAC [Aid and Cooperation Fund]-ASME [American Society of Mechanical Engineers] Renewable Energy Program No 3, and will go toward the renewal of the microwave relay station of Tchinfala, 24 km from Bamako. The second agreement, a total of 107 million Malian francs, is meant to assist the Malian Agricultural Products Office.

The two agreements were signed, for Mali, by His Excellency Maki Koleissi Aguibou Fall, director of international cooperation, and for France, by Jean Boulogne, head of the French mission for cooperation.

Hungarian Trade Union Delegation Arrives

*AB252235 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT
25 Apr 84*

[Text] A delegation led by Jozsef Timmer, secretary for international relations of the Central Council of the Hungarian Trade Unions and member of the board of directors of the International Labor Office, arrived in Bamako yesterday.

The delegation will hold working sessions with the Bureau of the National Union of Mali Workers, [UNTM] and will also pay courtesy calls on Ferdinand Nagozie Berthe, secretary of the Central Executive Bureau, in charge of relations with the UNTM. The delegation will also visit the Malian Lumber Company, which is an entirely autonomous company.

NIGER

New Permanent Representative to UN Appointed

*AB260847 Niamey Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT
26 Apr 84*

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state yesterday signed two decrees. In the first decree, Mounkaili Arouna, formerly ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Niger to France, has been appointed Niger's permanent representative at the United Nations, with the rank and prerogatives of an ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. He replaces Ide Oumarou, who has been recalled to assume other functions.

NIGERIA

Exchange Counters To Help in Currency Switch

*AB260852 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
26 Apr 84*

[Excerpt] All commercial banks in the country have been directed to set up exchange counters for the smooth exchange of currency notes by the public. Giving the directive in Lagos, the Central Bank of Nigeria emphasized that the exchange operation must take precedence over all other banking transactions. The exchange exercise began throughout the federation yesterday. The new notes are in denominations of 20, 10, 5 and 1 naira. The chief of staff, supreme headquarters had announced in a radio and television broadcast that the current exercise will be carried out daily, including Saturdays and Sundays, until the end of the exercise.

New Notes Not Yet Distributed

AB251358 Paris AFP in English 1346 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Lagos, April 25 (AFP) — Hundreds of Nigerians started queuing outside banks hours before they opened today to exchange their old naira notes, which will become invalid in 12 days. But some banks, including the important United Bank for Africa (UBA) complained that they had not yet received the new notes, distribution of which was not completed yesterday despite instructions from the second-ranking member of the military government, General Tunde Idiagbon.

Even so, several hundred people were queuing patiently outside the UBA branch at Falomo, in one of the capital's residential districts. They were watched by armed police, mounted and on foot, but there were no incidents.

Police at the door of the bank allowed customers to enter in small batches to change their money. Few people carried large sums to change. The old notes are valid until May 6, but there were reports of market traders refusing to accept them any longer, in spite of orders by the authorities.

Nigeria's land borders are to remain closed during the change-over operation, which should prevent a mass of old notes outside the country being brought in for changing. Press reports said today that a woman from neighbouring Cameroon had been arrested after landing at Lagos airport yesterday with a large quantity of naira.

General Idiagbon said Monday that the sudden changeover was made necessary by deliberate economic sabotage inside and outside the country. The naira has plunged in value recently, and large-scale trafficking in the currency has been partially blamed for Nigeria's economic troubles. The government daily the *NEW NIGERIAN* reported today that out of 11 billion naira in the country, some four billion had been kept out of normal circulation.

The banks were worried that they would not have enough of the new notes to exchange against the old. Rumours here said that

18 tons of new banknotes were delivered this week from Britain, where they had been printed. But there was concern that they could not be sent to some of the remoter regions in time to meet the May 6 deadline.

Nonavailability Reported

AB260830 Lagos NAN in English 0817 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Lagos, Apr 25 (NAN) — New currency notes put into circulation today throughout the country were not available in most commercial banks until afternoon.

According to the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN), customers who had besieged the banks as early as 0800 in Lagos were told to wait till the afternoon. The only exceptions were the main and head offices (?of the) UBA [United for Africa], Union Bank, Savannah Bank and IBWA [International Bank of West Africa] which issued out the new notes in the morning.

A NAN investigation revealed that representatives of the banks did not leave the Central Bank with the new notes until late last night and that head offices began to despatch them to their branches this morning.

Customers who went for normal transactions were issued with old notes while the exchange counters in most banks in Lagos and environs did not open until afternoon.

NAN reports from different parts of the country confirmed similar situations.

In Abeokuta, the major markets at Isabo, Itoku and Sapon were virtually empty this morning as market women flocked to the banks for the new notes. Reports from Sokoto, Ibadan and Benin also indicated long queues at various banks as customers were kept waiting for the new currency notes.

Tight security was mounted at the Central Bank as well as at other banks in Ibadan.

In Kaduna, the notes were already in circulation by 1000. In Port Harcourt, banks visited had not started exchanging old notes for new ones at 1000.

NAN investigations in Bauchi revealed that the exchange could not start on schedule at the commercial banks because Central Bank officials did not issue the new notes to commercial banks in time.

The Central Bank director of operations, Chief Chris Nwagwu, had in a statement to all commercial banks said that adequate quantities of the new notes would be available to all commercial banks from yesterday to enable them issue the notes to their customers with effect from 0800 today.

Chief Nwagwu said that all commercial banks were required to forward the usual authority to debit their bank accounts at the Central Bank their withdrawals. [sentence as received]

Cargo Processing Suspended

AB251849 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The Nigerian Airports Authority has suspended cargo processing at all international airports in the country for the period of the currency change. The airport manager, Sanni Baba, who stated this at a news conference today said all unaccompanied luggage in international flights would remain with the customs. He added that passengers could only claim such luggage after the currency change. Mr Baba said that this was part of the measures evolved at the end of a meeting of all security agents and officials of the airlines yesterday to forestall the activities of currency traffickers at the airport.

Press Welcomes Change

AB251515 Lagos International Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Apr 84

["Press Review"]

[Excerpts] Four papers, *THE NIGERIAN OBSERVER*, *THE NIGERIAN HERALD*, *THE NEW NIGERIAN* and the *DAILY STAR*, gladly welcome the change of Nigeria's currency. The papers jointly believe that the exercise is not only timely, but that it will reduce currency trafficking around the country's borders to the barest minimum. They collectively agree that the relatively short period of exchange will paralyze counter-action of currency traffickers. Furthermore, the *DAILY STAR* proposes that a method should be devised to ensure that nobody goes about changing money at every bank. In conclusion *THE HERALD* and the *NEW NIGERIAN* suggest that the conditions of exchange should be adequately explained to rural dwellers in local languages.

THE NIGERIAN TRIBUNE in its editorial takes a look at the Federal Military Government's [FMG] first 100 days in office. The paper notes that the administration has through some of its programs lessened the effects of the depressed economy. *THE TRIBUNE* however advises the military administration to implement the programs in its new book in order to make life easier for the general public.

Japan Called on To Improve Trade Imbalance

AB251848 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Nigeria has called on Japan to correct the trade imbalance between them. The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, observed at Dodan Barracks today that trade between the two countries had always been in favor of Japan. Maj Gen Buhari was briefing a delegation of Japanese economic mission to Africa. He noted that Nigeria was an important trading partner with Japan and called on the Japanese Government and commercial concerns to cooperate with their Nigerian counterparts in ensuring a balanced and mutually favorable trade relations between the two countries.

The head of state appealed for patience and understanding from the Japanese Government since Nigeria was still indebted to some Japanese financial houses in form of insured and uninsured loans. He called on Japan to stand by Nigeria at this trying period by honoring her orders for essential materials and spare parts.

The leader of the delegation, Masao Hanamori, who is also the economic adviser to the Japanese minister of foreign affairs, had earlier explained that the visit of the delegation to Nigeria was to seek avenues for increased trade relations.

SENEGAL

Senegambia Confederal Assembly To Meet 26 Apr AB252115 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The Bureau of the Senegambia Confederal Assembly will meet tomorrow at 1000 in Dakar. The speaker of the Confederal Assembly arrived in Dakar this afternoon. Mamadou Boubacar Ndiaye, who is also speaker of the Gambian National Assembly, was met on arrival by Mrs Marie (Antoie), vice chairman of the Bureau of the Confederal Assembly, and Alioune Ndiaye Mbog, vice chairman of the National Assembly.

In a statement to the press in Wolof, the speaker of the Confederal Assembly spoke about the agenda of the meeting then he switched to English, which I translated into French myself.

[Begin Ndiaye recording in English fading into French translation] This is the second time in 1 month that the Confederal Bureau is meeting to examine the proposals made by the Financial Committee after the meeting of our two [words indistinct]. They did a remarkable job and we will examine all that tomorrow. We hope that our proposals will be approved. All will depend on their nature, that is why I think it is a bit premature to give other details on the budget. [end recording]

Tomorrow, before the bureau meeting, the speaker of the Senegambia Confederal Assembly, to whom we have just listened, will pay a courtesy visit to the speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Daouda Sow, with whom he will have lunch.

Security Forces at University Prevent Clashes

AB251342 Paris AFP in French 1254 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Dakar, 25 Apr (AFP)—A large number of security forces were stationed around Dakar University campus on Wednesday morning to facilitate the resumption of classes and avoid possible clashes between striking and non-striking students. A strike action, which began at Dakar University's Faculty of Arts in mid-March, progressively spread [words indistinct] and in spite of the warning issued by Ibrahima Fall, the minister of higher education, a general assembly of the students on Tuesday decided to continue the boycott of classes. On Wednesday morning, groups of striking students were dispersed without incidents by the forces of order, but only a few students went to the university and the scheduled general assembly could not take place.

Also, secondary school pupils in Dakar have joined the strike in solidarity with the students of Dakar University, whose demands are educational (?abolition of qualifying tests for exams), material (?an increase in the number of scholarships, a bigger faculty budget, construction of new residence halls, and a new restaurant) and social (?guarantee of jobs for the graduates).

Head of State Receives Saudi Minister, Others

AB252118 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Today the head of state received several personalities including Hady Farma Mbaye, political director of the second [word indistinct] coordination of Cape Verde, accompanied by Mrs Daouda Diawara; Landing Sane, secretary of state for decentralization; Mrs Marie Sarr M'bodj, secretary of state for technical and professional training; Bocar Dialla, secretary of state for deep-sea fishing; Thierno Ba, secretary of state for employment; His Excellency 'Abd al-Wasi 'Abd al-Wahhab Ahmad, minister of pilgrimage affairs and religious property of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who is on an official visit to Senegal. The Saudi minister was accompanied by Usamah Hasiirji, vice minister in charge of religious affairs, who delivered a message from His Majesty Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Sa'ud, king of Saudi Arabia.

SIERRA LEONE

Information Agreement To Be Signed With USSR

AB252245 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] An invitation for a three-man information delegation to attend this year's film festival, starting from 23 May to 6 June in the USSR, has been extended to the minister of information and broadcasting, Dr Moiwa Korji, by the USSR ambassador, Yuriy N. Meshkov. During a courtesy call this morning, the ambassador informed Dr Korji that the delegation would have the opportunity of visiting that country's cinema industry at the city of Tashkent.

He described the Ministry of Information as an important machinery of government, briefed the minister of a joint agreement to facilitate the easy transmission of news between both countries which is to be signed between his ministry and TASS news agency in the USSR, adding that such an agreement would be of mutual interest to both countries.

Ambassador Meshkov emphasized that his main task during his tenure of office here was to develop the friendly relationship existing between both countries, ensure the flow of correct information about his country, and cooperate in the struggle for peace with the government and people of Sierra Leone. The ambassador talked about the contribution to the development of over 700 Sierra Leoneans who had graduated from various universities and institutions of higher learning in the USSR and disclosed that more scholarships have been awarded this year by his government to over 160 more deserving Sierra Leoneans to pursue courses in various fields of study.

Ambassador Meshkov described the international scene as serious for mankind. He also noted that some world leaders have paid special attention to this problem.

The minister of information and broadcasting, Dr Moiwa Korji, told the Russian ambassador that he was particularly happy to note that the USSR has played a very significant role in the training of professionals, technicians, and administrators, and exercises which started as far back as the early '60s. In the struggle for development, Dr Korji said the training of the national cadres [words indistinct] the government appreciates the USSR's assistance in the form of training our young men and women in both technical and specialized fields. Dr Korji mentioned that the USSR also renders considerable assistance to this country in the fields of health and sports for which he said we are very thankful.

On the international scene, Dr Korji informed the ambassador that Sierra Leone is a nonaligned member of the Third World which looks forward to the superpowers for peace. Dr Moiwa

Korji emphasized that there cannot be development without peace, stressing the need for common understanding between the world powers for world peace. The minister also reiterated the Sierra Leone Government's concern to ensure a peaceful solution in the world and to give full support to any move for world peace. Dr Korji, who said he looked forward to the visit, assured the ambassador of his ministry's cooperation with the USSR Embassy, and wished him a successful and enjoyable stay in Sierra Leone.

With the minister during the discussion were his permanent secretary, Hamed Kamara; the director of information, Hurbert Williams; the assistant director, I Harrison Conteh; and controller of news, Julius Kukuri Coker.

The ambassador was accompanied by the press officer at the USSR Embassy, Yuriy (Seychales).

ANGOLA

UNITA Envoy Presents Demands on UK Prisoners

MB251648 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1639 GMT
25 Apr 84

[Text] London, April 25, SAPA — UNITA today handed to the Foreign Office a letter detailing its conditions for the release of 16 British nationals held in the Angolan bush since they were captured last month. A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that UNITA's London representative, Mr Tito Chingunji, had delivered the letter. Its contents were not disclosed, but UNITA is known to be seeking some form of recognition from the British Government before it agrees to release the men — possibly a visit from a government representative.

The government was in direct contact with UNITA for the first time early this month when Mr Chingunji met officials. The Foreign Office has said it is ready to "talk to anyone" and that its attitude is strictly humanitarian. The British Government's problem is that while it recognises the MPLA government in Luanda, it cannot be seen to do the same with UNITA. At the same time, it must do all it can to gain the release of the hostages.

MPLA Politburo Members Visit Wounded Cubans

FL252110 Havana Television Service in Spanish
1800 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] A *PRENSA LATINA* report states that Lucio Lara and Dilo Matros, Politburo members of the Popular Liberation Movement of Angola-Party of Labor, have visited the Luanda hospital where the Cubans wounded in the Huambo terrorist action on 19 April are being treated. Lara and Matros were accompanied by Francisco Maida Espaiwa, Central Committee member, and Venancio de Mora, Angola's vice minister of foreign relations.

The Angolan leaders talked with the wounded Cubans, teachers, technicians, construction workers, and other civilians, who were victims of this terrorist action. Lara and Matros conveyed President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' greeting of solidarity to the Cubans.

LESOTHO

Bomb Explosion in Qacha's Nek Kills One

MB251712 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The CID [Central Intelligence Department] police in Qacha's Nek report that last week Thursday at Ha Mmanteko under Headman Motseki Matipa, Limpho Tsolo and Lerato Makhetha found a bomb that later exploded and killed Lerato Makhetha. Timpho Tsolo sustained serious injuries and was admitted to Machabeng Hospital in a critical condition. No arrests have been made and the nature of the explosive has not yet been determined. Police investigations are continuing.

Opposition Walks Out During Electoral Law Debate

MB251439 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Members of the opposition in the National Assembly walked out again this morning when debate started on the Electoral Bill Amendment 1984.

The opposition members of the BCP [Basotho Congress Party] and the MTFP [Marema Tloee Freedom Party] have said they will not participate in the debate because of the amendments being introduced in the Lesotho electoral law.

The debate on the bill has been going on since early last week and opposition members have been boycotting them. It has been suggested that the deposit for each election candidate be increased from 200 maluti to 1,000 maluti and that a candidate should be nominated by at least 500 constituents.

The assembly continued its debate despite the opposition walk-out, and a member of the BNP [Basotho National Party], Mr Julius Monameli, described their action as cowardice, stressing that the government was clear on what it was doing since it has conducted elections before.

Mr Monameli said it was necessary to amend laws from time to time to conform with the times and added that the nation cannot be allowed to go to the polls under the conditions of the 1968 electoral law.

BNP Member on Walkout

MB251740 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] A member of the ruling Basotho National Party in Parliament, Mrs (Mmamathe Masopa), this afternoon expressed concern at the continued marchout by the opposition parties in the National Assembly.

Mrs (Mmamathe) said this is a matter of great concern, particularly because it takes place when an important bill is being discussed.

Members of the Basotho Congress Party [BCP] and Marema Tloee Freedom Party staged a marchout when the Electoral Amendment Bill 1984 was being discussed.

Mrs (Mmamathe) said that the marchout by members of the opposition parties could well be interpreted as the customary technique of opposition of deliberately confusing the party and causing anarchy in the country. They do this because of their fear of general elections, she said.

Mrs (Mmamathe) recalled that even in 1966, when the independence bill was being discussed, members of the BCP staged a walkout. Mrs (Mmamathe) said that opposition members cannot justify their walkout on the basis that their suggestions are not being considered by the government, because their bureau made an amendment on this particular bill which is being discussed.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Addresses 12th Session of People's Assembly

MB241602 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0712 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Speech by Samora Machel, chairman of Frelimo Party and president, at the opening session of the 12th session of the People's Assembly in Maputo on 24 April — live]

[Excerpts] Deputies of the People's Assembly, members of the diplomatic corps, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen: We now begin the proceedings of the 12th session of the People's Assembly, the supreme organ of state power in our country. The path we have traveled since the last session brought major achievements in the political field and in state action. It was a path of some successes. It was also a path of difficulties, which we still face. It is with strong emotion that we greet the deputies who traveled along this long and difficult path. We greet the deputies who are here today from all corners of the country in implementing their mandate as elected representatives of the Mozambican people.

Through you, the deputies, we greet all citizens who on various fighting fronts are engaged in the defense of the fatherland, in the struggle against backwardness, and in the building of socialism. The certainty of victory in this struggle, which demands courage, dedication, and heroism, resides in the generous patriotism and limitless unity of the people that we represent. We express our appreciation for the presence of members of the diplomatic corps who honor us by being here today. Through your excellencies, we salute the peoples and governments of the countries that you represent here. Your presence in our midst is proof of a common desire to pursue the development of relations of friendship and cooperation for peace, progress, and the well-being of our peoples. [applause]

It is also with renewed joy that we welcome here once again Mozambican citizens coming from all sectors of social and political activity, who by their participation in this session make a valuable contribution. This participation has already become a tradition and this tradition must be preserved.

Deputies and invited guests, our country's activity during the period since that last session of this assembly was marked by achievements of exceptional importance for the life of the Mozambican people and for creation of a climate of peace in southern Africa. As a matter of fact, the holding of the fourth congress of the Frelimo Party opened a new phase in the development of the People's Republic of Mozambique. The profound examination of the country's situation and the concrete and precise directives defined gave a creative impulse to the major guidelines laid down, such as the defense of the fatherland, the struggle against backwardness, and the building of socialism. The state was charged with major, difficult tasks whose achievements consumed almost all the efforts of the leaders and institutions at all levels.

We concentrated our action on three priority fronts defined by the fourth congress. In the field of defense, the process of general

reorganization of the country's defense structure was intensified in order to better adjust to the demands of battle in the struggle to eliminate the armed bandits. The positive results were demonstrated by the major victories achieved by our forces, who repulsed the bandits in a number of zones and freed civilians subjected to terror and oppression. The correlation of forces in our favor placed the armed bandits in a situation of retreat and escape, taking the initiative from them and creating favorable conditions for their speedy elimination.

Equally, the implementation of directives in the economic field made possible the consolidation of these victories despite the fact that more than half of our country has been affected by natural disasters, first by prolonged drought and then by the extensive floods in the south of the country caused by Cyclone Domoina.

Prospects for improving our living conditions were opened after the Frelimo Party congress. We made use of our internal abilities. We developed a praiseworthy effort which involved all our hard-working people in the fight against hunger. We reorganized our state machinery. We employed a number of our best cadres in the achievement of these tasks. Members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau were put in a position to lead our country's provinces. We carried out a government reshuffle which led to strengthening the ministries and our sovereignty. The ministries involved were: the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, and the National State Security Service. We placed a considerable number of cadres in the management of the economy and production. We created new ministries and state secretariats. We thus increased our ability to carry out decisions at the local level which was expressed in the increasing number of positive achievements now already being felt in many areas of our country. These successes still do not possess a visible impact on our economy as a whole, which is experiencing today its worst crisis.

The third major state activity was made on the diplomatic front. We directed our diplomatic activity toward the achievement of the policy of peace and cooperation defined by the fourth congress and the isolation of the apartheid regime from its allies.

The moments most... [42-second break in transmission] [Words indistinct] the strengthening of the provincial military commands in particular in the Provinces of Zambezia, Sofala, and Inhambane. We strengthened the leading structures of the Ministry of National Defense to ensure efficient command of troops and services. We made improvements in training and the combat readiness of soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and commissioned officers, and developed training centers. These were conceived as a forge for a new Mozambican soldier and patriot, a forge of national unity which must be achieved and which must today reflect, as in Kongwa and Nachingwea [in Tanzania] yesterday, the glorious traditions of the FPLM. We introduced a new basic military regulation which will allow us to strengthen discipline and the organization of the Armed Forces and put into practice principles governing the life of military units in the barracks, which will instill good military discipline, including rules of good behavior and respect. This will mainly improve combat readiness and relations between the soldiers and the people.

We approved and vigorously applied a new regulation on salaries of the Armed Forces. This is an instrument which enables us to establish uniform salaries and institutionalize military careers. All these measures tactically revitalized the strategy which we have always propounded: to use man as the decisive factor. In addition to these measures, the fight against the bandits was intensified within the framework of continuing the offensive mounted in 1982. During this period, our forces carried out a number of operations and thus began to implement the directive of making the bush their operational theater by destroying dozens of bases belonging to the bandits in the Gaza, Inhambane, Anica, Sofala, and Zambezia Provinces, where hundreds of bandits were killed and a large quantity of armament, military equipment, and ammunition was captured.

As a result of these actions, we also have in our power today thousands of armed bandits who were made prisoners. With every passing day, as a result of each battle that we carry out, more bandits surrender to our forces with their weapons. These are remarkable victories, but there is still much to do to totally achieve our objective of eliminating the armed bandits once and for all. Their new tactics and the incidents which took place in Maputo Province are a clear indication that the enemy intends to create instability in the very capital of our country. Every citizen must be alert and vigilant to crush these maneuvers. We must prepare to once again frustrate the enemy's plans. Here we speak of the enemy as an entity who tries at all costs to demonstrate a strength which he has never possessed and a capability which he has never had.

Deputies and guests, the causes that I have stated as responsible for the difficult situation facing us must not make us obfuscate our shortcomings, the mistakes that we have made, and those which we continue to make today. State and nationalized enterprises are incurring big losses to our economy. Salaries continue to grow without an increase in production. An important fraction of the labor force is unemployed. We watch, without meting out punishment, state and state enterprise resources being squandered unnecessarily. One example of misuse of property is officials in different sectors who divert construction materials, trucks, seeds, equipment, personnel, and other resources for personal goals. They incur unnecessary expenses which are included in their salaries and lead a type of life which is not within our means.

Resources put at the disposal of enterprises and the state are the result of the work and the sacrifices of our people. The indiscriminate use of these resources, their misappropriation, and their squandering are crimes against the people. To use goods which are the collective property of the people for personal benefit is a crime. It is also damaging to the economy when we transform the state and state enterprises into charitable institutions by freely distributing goods and services, supporting persons who are not working, or paying exaggerated salaries. There has been a systematic fall of production and productivity without any convincing and reasonable justification. The enterprises are the main units of our economy. It is from them that we can organize the economy and implement our economic policy. The enterprises are an instrument of economic progress. They are the arms and legs of the economy. Today, generally speaking, the vital parts of the economy are being stunted. In some cases, they are exces-

sively big for our management capacity, and in other cases, they are extremely debilitated. Thus, our enterprises are either being run poorly or are not being run at all.

The revitalization of the economy imperatively means the reorganization of the enterprises and the introduction of management based on economic laws. The enterprises must function with autonomy within rules to be defined. The state and its structures must not be transformed into a force which can progressively stifle the freedom of action of enterprises. On the contrary, structures at all levels must support the management of enterprises to achieve the objectives which have been laid down by higher authorities. In the debate that we are going to make, the deputies and guests will certainly have many suggestions to make on the actions to be undertaken in this field.

Guests and deputies, the fourth congress of the Frelimo Party analyzed deeply and in detail the causes of our economic difficulties. In order to solve the country's economic situation, general and specific measures were adopted. Many of the measures have already been put into practice and others must be urgently implemented. However, the effects of such measures are not yet being felt in full throughout all the regions in the country. In the context of fighting famine, priority was given to the family sector. The intense mobilization work in this sector permits us to expect an increase in family sector production. Thousands of hectares of fertile land were distributed to private and family sectors. This includes areas with irrigation facilities.

The people in the north and south of the country actively responded to the appeal made to fight famine. They invented means to work the land. They found strength to fight the armed bandits. They found strength to fight hunger. The visits made to various countries of Europe opened new diplomatic and economic prospects. There is now a greater international understanding of our positions, needs, and potential. We broke up the international blockage which was being created around our country. We launched the process of negotiation on the external debt that we acquired in order to solve our country's economic problems. We are now negotiating our membership in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Lome Convention.

To facilitate private foreign investments in the country, within the framework of the decisions of the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress, the preparation of the foreign investments law is already at an advanced stage. The actions initiated internally and the results already achieved internationally have created new conditions for the economic and social development of our country. They created new conditions for the establishment of the peace our people wanted. This effort will only produce results if we are decidedly involved in the battles awaiting us.

The battles have to be waged by us, and they must be won with our sacrifice and dedication. The main battles are the fight against the armed bandits and against famine. Without defense and security it is not possible to reactivate the economy and solve our fundamental problems. The armed bandits are desperate. In their death-rattle they can still commit heinous crimes. The liquidation of the armed gangs constitutes the central preoccupation of all organizations.

While discussing the economy, you deputies will have an opportunity to discuss the central state plan and the general state budget for 1984. As we discuss these two important instruments for the management of the economy, we shall take the opportunity to observe that the moment is difficult, but the prospects are good. In each sector, let us define the fundamental issue and assure ourselves, with the participation of the workers, that the essential tasks are being implemented.

The diplomatic front was defined by the fourth congress as a priority front for the affirmation of our role as a free and sovereign nation and a socialist and nonaligned country fighting against underdevelopment and against apartheid's destabilizing action in this zone of our continent. The political and diplomatic offensive which we launched after the fourth congress is based on the basic principles which have always guided our party and state toward establishing a climate of peace, understanding, cooperation, equality, and justice in international relations. In the diplomatic field we have been trying to implement the principle of establishing relations with all countries, regardless of their political, economic, and social systems, on the basis of respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual benefits, and the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

On the basis of these universal principles we have tried to implement our people's most profound inspirations so that in a climate of peace they can concentrate on the elimination of famine, nakedness, and ignorance. Thus, we promoted intense international diplomatic activity in order to apply our foreign policy principles. In this context, the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique visited Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, England, Yugoslavia, France, and the EEC. During these visits the People's Republic of Mozambique created an image which permitted it to gain support for our independent policy of peace. In those countries we tried to explain the causes of the problems that we are facing in our area and to demonstrate that the sole destabilizing factor in southern Africa was the apartheid regime, which, with its aggressive policy, was trying to transfer its internal conflicts and contradictions to neighboring countries and impose its hegemonistic policy on them. We explained the nature of our socialist policy of peace, independence, and cooperation to all countries, regardless of their social, economic, and political systems. During these visits we rectified the distorted image that some countries had of the People's Republic of Mozambique. These visits contributed toward a general understanding of the problems affecting the African Continent in general and southern Africa in particular.

Deputies and guests, within the framework of implementing our peace policy of neighborliness and peaceful coexistence with countries in our area, contacts were established with the South African authorities in order to lessen the tension in the area and define rules for peaceful relations between the two neighboring states within the universally accepted principles of coexistence among nations. In the talks with South Africa, we vigorously reaffirmed the principles of a socialist peace policy. We firmly condemned the apartheid system and its policy of bantustanization. We reiterated our political, diplomatic, and moral support for the ANC, which is fighting for democracy and justice and against racial discrimination and for equality among all the

racies in South Africa. [applause] This process led to the signing of the Nkomati Accord between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa on 16 March 1984. The Nkomati Accord is a victory for our people and constitutes an important step in the implementation of the socialist peace policy reaffirmed by the fourth Frelimo Party Congress. The Nkomati Accord responds to the political aspirations of the people who want peace to promote well-being and progress in our region. As we said on 5 April, the Nkomati process is evidence that it is possible to solve difficult conflicts through negotiations and without necessarily resorting to force, blackmail, and confrontation. [applause]

Deputies and guests, as part of the diplomatic offensive to strengthening African unity, we visited Benin, and, very recently, Zaire and the People's Republic of the Congo. Here we observed a similarity of opinions regarding the current political and economic situation on our continent and a determination to pursue the fight for the total liberation of the African peoples. We attended the Bissau summit. The friendship and solidarity among the five countries which were oppressed by the same colonialism continue to be strengthened through the continuous development of a broadening cooperation. We felt that the common spirit of dedication to developing the prosperity of our peoples is being strengthened even further. We also stressed, as the main activities of our nations, participation in the OAU summit, where we made an active contribution toward strengthening the unity of African countries. Our participation in the summit held in Maputo by the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, an instrument for the economic independence of southern African countries, and the strengthening of similar views and the affirmation of positions, made it easy to strengthen our militant strategy in the common struggle that we are waging against underdevelopment and to establish embassies and appoint ambassadors to the United States, Cuba, Ethiopia, and the OAU.

Mr Deputies and guests, the defense of the interests of the Mozambican people is paramount and corresponds to the principles which constituted the *raison d'être* of our struggle, and for which Mozambican men and women gave their lives. The diplomatic action of the People's Republic of Mozambique constitutes one priority. We must continue to support the just struggle of people for the achievement of their independence, democracy, and economic and social progress. We shall continue to support the peoples of Namibia, Sahara, East Timor, and Palestine in their struggle for self-determination, independence, and democracy. We shall continue to condemn apartheid as a crime against humanity and we shall continue to give political, moral, and diplomatic support to the ANC in its struggle against the heinous crimes of apartheid. We shall combine all our efforts so that within the UN system the principles and objectives of this organization's charter will be observed. The OAU is our fighting weapon. We shall remain firm in the defense of the principles and objectives consecrated in its charter. We have worked to strengthen the anti-imperialist front represented by the Non-aligned Movement in the defense of the principles which constitute the essence of its foundation. The People's Republic of Mozambique must pursue this diplomatic activity with great vigor. The actions which have already been begun and the results already achieved at the international level created new conditions

for the economic and social development of the country and for the establishment of the peace aspired to by our people.

Deputies and invited guests, the present session of the People's Assembly is taking place more than a year since the last session. We did not, therefore, observe the planned program of holding two ordinary sessions a year. There are many reasons for this. As we have already pointed out, the fourth congress of the Frelimo Party defined fundamental tasks and directives for national activity. The implementation of these directives required state organs to make an important combination of efforts on the decisive defense and diplomatic fronts. We pursued with greater vigor the offensive against the armed bandits, and at the same time we launched actions on the diplomatic front at the highest level of our nation to break the siege which was being created around us. With this offensive, we were able to clarify the aggressive and destabilizing nature of the apartheid regime in our region.

Deputies and invited guests, the influx of pressing tasks combined with the limited human resources at our disposal did not allow us to hold the general elections in 1983, which should have followed the fourth Frelimo Party congress. The present assembly was thus forced to extend its mandate. For these reasons it was also not possible for us to hold the 12th session of the People's Assembly earlier. The holding of general elections for a new assembly must be discussed during the present session. The present assembly was elected in 1977, after the third Frelimo congress. The election of assemblies was our country's first experience with the exercise of democracy throughout our territory and involving all the people. It was the first experience with democracy, from the local level to the national level. Thus, this first step constitutes a true school where we learn to exercise the people's power through the functioning of the assemblies.

In these conditions, it is evident that we should reformulate our aspirations in accordance with experience. The deputies must now examine the tasks established in 1977 for the assemblies at all levels. They must examine the experience gained from the implementation of the principles adopted then and assess how far the people's leadership organizations achieved the objectives for which they were created. They must examine the difficulties now facing these organizations and the lessons to be drawn from this experience. This objective examination will enable us to adopt the laws and the functioning of the institutions to our political, economic, social, and cultural reality. It is the task of this assembly to utilize its experience to identify valid ideals which can be constituted into principles and assume the form of laws. In the systematic examination of the functioning of state organs from the local assemblies to People's Assembly level, which we are now about to begin, particular attention should be given to the manner in which the principles of unification of power, and the review and rendering of accounts by the executives to the assemblies at all echelons, are implemented.

Deputies and invited guests, it is the duty of the assemblies to concern themselves with the fundamental problems of our people's life and the improvement of their material and spiritual conditions. We have always been concerned with the problem of legality. Legality should be understood to be a series of principles and norms governing our ethics — the ethics of the Mozambican

revolution. As we are dealing with an issue which is closely related to the social peace, public order, security, and tranquility of every citizen and every family, we have on various occasions publicly exposed mistakes and violations which compromise these principles.

The assemblies, particularly the People's Assembly, cannot remain indifferent or ignore the problems of legality. During the present session and within the framework of the examination of the functioning of the assemblies, the deputies must discuss the legal situation in the country, the existing problems, and the measures being taken or that must be taken.

Deputies and invited guests, this is a resume of the many tasks that we have accomplished or have yet to accomplish. The responsibility that we are charged with is great. The tasks that we must carry out today are immense. But our already demonstrated ability and the ability of our people is even greater. We are the generation of 25 September.

Assembly Deputies Discuss Budget, Planning Laws
MB251220 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
 0430 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The deputies and invited guests to the People's Assembly will continue with the proceedings of the 12th session this morning. They will be divided into groups to assess the state's activities since the holding of the 11th session of the People's Assembly and to discuss the draft planning and state general budget laws for 1984.

In the assessment of state activities since the holding of the 11th session of the People's Assembly, the deputies have as their basic document the speech made yesterday by President Samora Machel during the opening session of the 12th session of this supreme organ of state power. During yesterday's afternoon session, the deputies examined the draft planning law and the draft national general budget law for 1984. On examining the draft planning law, the deputies began by noting 1983 was the worst year for the country economically since independence.

Economic activity declined by 16 percent compared to the previous year. They also noted that major external factors that interfered with the worsening of the economic situation were the acts of destabilization carried out by South Africa and armed bandits which resulted in a 30 percent reduction in South African international freight traffic by rail in comparison to 1982. The decline in international railroad traffic implied a direct loss of about 1.3 million contos in hard currency. With regard to the budget law, Article two, paragraph one established the public revenue to be collected in 1984 at 20 million contos.

The first priority in the allocation of resources at our disposal will be meeting the objectives of the defense of the fatherland and revolution, the strengthening of our country's defense capacity, and the inviolability of the national territorial borders. The budget law to be approved today establishes the amount allocated for education, health, and social security at over 7.4 million contos.

People's Assembly Ratifies Nkomati Accord
MB251419 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
 1100 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Mozambique's parliament, the People's Assembly, yesterday ratified by acclamation the Nkomati Accord signed with South Africa last month. The resolution ratifying the agreement was presented by Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, who said the pact was a victory for Mozambique, but warned that major challenges still lay ahead. Mr Chissano said the challenge was that the enemy was trying to use the Nkomati Accord in his favor and against Mozambique. He warned against allowing an excess of emotion and joy to overwhelm our intelligence.

Mr Chissano said Mozambique had gone into the accord with its eyes open. Only someone who had no experience of enemies who always use the most varied and fastidious practices could take such a decision without thinking through all the consequences, he said. Mozambique, he added, had been careful to prepare conditions so that any enemy maneuvers could only result in failure. He was convinced that violation of the accord would bring disastrous results for the violator.

The foreign minister criticized the ultra-left, myopic revolutionaries who objected to the accord. They do not hesitate in asking us to die so they can applaud us as heroes, he remarked. Mozambique did not mind it when the sacrifice was useful, as during the independence war, but our people do not just die just so that statues can be built to them. Mr Chissano warned that the agreement on its own would not eliminate hunger or provide clothing, but it would create the conditions so efforts in production would give better results. Deputy Defense Minister Sergio Vieira said the pact was a defeat for those in South Africa who had staked all on racism and expansionism and who had made their anticommunism a pathological obsession. Those who used to boast that they could destroy any African state between breakfast and lunch were now forced to coexist with Mozambique's antiracist state. Colonel Vieira heads the Mozambican side of the joint commission that monitors the implementation of the Nkomati Accord.

At the end of the debate, President Samora Machel asked his aides to show the deputies the documentation that Mozambique had used in the negotiations leading up to the signing of the accord. A total of 22 fact files were presented containing the essential background material on South Africa. President Machel said they contained the lives of each of the South African leaders. The accord of Nkomati was then ratified by acclamation. Moses Mabhida, secretary general of the South African Communist Party and a member of the ANC Executive, was present throughout the debate. The People's Assembly is continuing its discussions today in working groups.

Frontline State Leaders To Meet in Maputo
MB251450 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans
 1400 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] It is reported from Maputo that the leaders of the frontline states are to meet in the Mozambican capital on Friday for talks on the new political climate in southern Africa. The meeting

comes after the signing of the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique, the Lusaka security agreement with Angola, and the disclosure of a security and neighborliness accord signed with Swaziland. The report said the military situation in southern Africa will be discussed at the meeting on Friday. There are indications that the problems facing the ANC after the expulsion of its militant members from Mozambique and the clampdown on ANC elements in Swaziland will also be on the agenda. The role of SWAPO in Angola will probably also come in for discussion. Earlier, it was suggested that representatives of the ANC and SWAPO would be present at the summit meeting in Maputo.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Prepared To Meet All 'Patriotic' Leaders
MB251525 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1513 GMT
 25 Apr 84

[Text] Windhoek, April 25, SAPA — SWAPO would be prepared to meet all "patriotic" political leaders in SWA/Namibia for discussions to create "a climate of understanding," a senior SWAPO spokesman said in Lusaka today. But he excluded the possibility of SWAPO holding talks with member parties of the Multi-Party Conference on the future of the territory. In a telephone interview with SAPA in Windhoek, the spokesman said SWAPO looked forward to a meeting with the leader of the Damara Raad, Mr Justus Garoeb, who left for Lusaka today. Mr Garoeb, accompanied by an executive member, Mr Simson Gobbs, would be meeting SWAPO's leader, Mr Sam Nujoma, and other members of the organization's leadership, the spokesman said. "It is the first time that we will be meeting them," he said, adding it was not known at this stage which topics would be discussed.

"Any party who wants to talk to SWAPO, we are not going to say no," he said. "But we are not going to receive anybody who wants to talk to SWAPO just because he is a Namibian." The organization would meet only those who had proved that they strove to promote the cause of "patriotic forces in Namibia." Asked whether SWAPO would meet members of the MPC abroad, he replied, "SWAPO is not interested in meeting with puppets." SWAPO has charged in the past the privately initiated Multi-Party Conference was collaborating with the South African Government.

HNP Rejects MPC Bill of Rights as 'Sell-Out'
MB251427 Umtata Capital Radio in English
 1000 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The Herstigte Nasionale Party [HNP] has slammed the Multiparty Conference [MPC]. It has called the MPC's bill of fundamental rights a sell-out of white rights. HNP leader Sarel Bekker says the right to resort to the territory's Supreme Court against discrimination on the basis of race or color will dispossess the whites of their institutions. Bekker says a one man, one vote situation had never been acceptable to the whites. He feels the bill of rights does not recognize the rights of ethnic groups.

SOUTH AFRICA

Released Prisoners Arrive in Johannesburg

MB261407 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1404 GMT
26 Apr 84

[Text] Johannesburg, April 26, SAPA — The largest contingent of hostages released by the Angolan UNITA resistance movement at one time — about 90 men, women, and children — arrived in Johannesburg this afternoon after having been freed at an undisclosed venue in the southern Angolan bush earlier today. The group, some of whom had apparently been held for almost 6 months by the rebel organization, were flown to South Africa on an aircraft chartered by the International Red Cross, which negotiated their release. Diplomatic sources said the group included 66 Portuguese nationals and 15 Filipinos. Eight missionaries of various nationalities — among them a Japanese woman — were also among the hostages. According to Portuguese diplomats, the prisoners were to have been freed 2 weeks ago, but this had been delayed as it was hoped that 16 British captives could be released at the same time.

About 40 of the Portuguese nationals released today were apparently captured along with the 16 Britons and about 20 Czechoslovakians, whom UNITA are still holding. The hostages were met by representatives of their countries' diplomatic missions in South Africa. Diplomatic sources said they would probably be repatriated to their countries of origin.

Security of Cahora Bassa Network Examined

MB251600 Johannesburg International Service in English
1500 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Members of the South African and Mozambican Defense Forces are investigating ways to ensure the safety of the Cahora Bassa electricity network. The South African minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, said the investigation began after an agreement between South Africa, Mozambique, and Portugal on the supply of power to South Africa from the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme. He said in Cape Town that the investigation was being carried out by a subcommittee of the Joint Security Commission of South Africa and Mozambique, which had been formed in terms of the Nkomati Accord. Gen Malan said the idea was to protect the power network against sabotage and to ensure a steady flow of power. The network had been a target of frequent attacks in the past, resulting in interruptions in the supply of power.

Party Leaders, Nel Comment on Nkomati Accord

MB251657 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The leader of the opposition, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, says South Africa is going through a very favorable period as far as foreign relations are concerned. Speaking during the debate on the prime minister's budget vote in the House of Assembly, Dr Slabbert said evidence of this was the recent accord of Nkomati, security agreements with countries such as Swaziland and Botswana,

and the prime minister's coming visit to the FRG and other European countries. Referring to relations with South Africa's neighboring states, Dr Slabbert said it was better to make peace with neighboring countries which had viable economies than with neighbors that were economically on their knees. He said it would be ironic if the peace agreements with neighboring states increased South Africa's economic burden instead of easing it.

The leader of the Conservative Party [CP], Dr Andries Treurnicht, said during the debate that while his party welcomed the strong pronouncements contained in the Nkomati Accord, there were a number of matters on which the CP would like to receive assurance from the prime minister. Dr Treurnicht said no treaty held a guarantee that would be honored and the pressures which had forced Mozambique to conclude the treaty were not necessarily a permanent guarantee of good neighborliness. He said the CP was concerned by a statement by the Mozambican foreign minister, Mr Chissano, who was quoted by a newspaper as saying after the signing of the Nkomati Accord that Mozambique would continue to give the ANC support.

The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, said it was important to realize that the signing of an accord such as that of Nkomati did not mean that all the problems of southern Africa had been solved. Mr Nel said it was essential to ensure that all the parties to the accord honored their obligations in terms of the accord. It was also essential that the countries of southern Africa become involved in joint projects on the basis that such projects were to the advantage of the countries concerned.

Slabbert Calls for Equal Citizenship for Blacks

MB251753 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1700 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Prime Minister P.W. Botha has been called on to say whether he intends introducing a dispensation for blacks based on common South African citizenship with other race groups. The call comes from opposition leader Frederick van Zyl Slabbert. He was speaking during the debate on the prime minister's vote. Slabbert said that only if such a dispensation was introduced could South Africa be acknowledged as a member of the international community. He said if not, the new favorable climate in the West towards South Africa will be shortlived. He says acceptance of Coloreds and Indians as citizens of South Africa in terms of the new constitution is not different from extending citizenship to blacks. Slabbert says Botha must give an indication of the direction the government intends taking in this regard.

Slabbert Refers To Allegations About Fuel Fund

MB251946 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The leader of the opposition, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, has referred to allegations made about the Strategic Fuel Fund during the debate on the prime minister's budget vote in the House of Assembly. He said the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, had referred these to the advocate general for investigation. Dr Slabbert urged anyone who had relevant information to make

this available to the advocate general. He also appealed to the prime minister to ensure that the advocate general had all the assistance he needed to conduct his investigation. Dr Slabbert said the allegations concerned public money. He believed this was a matter that concerned parliament directly and should therefore be dealt with by a parliamentary select committee. He asked the prime minister to appoint such a committee immediately. Earlier in the debate, Dr Slabbert described Mr Botha as the most successful prime minister the country had had. He said, however, that the prime minister's success lay chiefly in his ability to underline the challenges facing the country rather than in finding solutions to them.

3 Commuters Injured by Bombs Near East London

*MB251430 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0900 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] Three commuters were seriously injured when petrol bombs were thrown into a bus at the entrance of the Mdantsane Township near East London this morning. Another five passengers were admitted to the (Cecilia Makewane) hospital, according to the chief ambulance officer of the Kaffrarian Ambulance Reserve Unit, Mr (Rob Warmesley). The condition of the three seriously injured passengers was described as critical.

Violence Erupts in Graaf Reinet School

*MB251748 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1700 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] There are fears of continued unrest at a school in Graaf Reinet. Yesterday pupils from the Ngweve Secondary School set vehicles alight, stoned houses, and tried to attack teachers. They are protesting because school officials refused to reinstate a scholar who was expelled recently. The circuit inspector, H.K. (Blackie), says the pupils will be struck off the register if they do not go back to school by Monday. The violence yesterday erupted after police ordered the pupils to disperse after they had been informed that school had been closed until Monday. The crowd of more than 200 was dispersed by tear gas.

Army To Get New Night Vision Equipment

*MB251436 Johannesburg International Service in English
1100 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] The South African Armaments Corporation has completed three projects for the manufacturing of night vision equipment and has reached the stage where it is able to provide the South African Army with all the night-fighting equipment it needs. A representative of one of the companies involved with the projects says in the latest issue of the Army newspaper, *UNI FORM*, that 10 years ago South Africa had no electro-optical capability. Now the Defense Force has night vision equipment that compares with the best in the world. He described the completion of the project for a mini-night vision sight, special night vision goggles, and a drive-o-scope for the drivers of armored cars as a technological breakthrough for South Africa. The three projects were completed recently and handed to the Defense Force for use in the operational area. The mini-night

vision sight had elicited great interest at an international air show that has been held in Chile. The drive-o-scope was designed for an overseas model but was adapted to South African conditions.

BEELD Discusses Reaction to Terrorist Acts

*MB251234 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans
19 Apr 84 p 12*

[Editorial: "Total War"]

[Text] The debate which has been going on in South Africa for the past week or so on terrorism has been provided with harsh comment in the form of two incidents abroad: the deaths of two American diplomats in a bomb explosion and the diplomatic wrangle now taking place between Britain and Libya.

Both incidents have indicated that international terrorism respects nothing and no one — and strikes everywhere, with no regard for government sentiment or innocent lives.

For this reason, half-hearted action does not help against terrorism. Resistance must be total, both internally and internationally, or it will boomerang at some time or another.

In the case of the South-West Africa tragedy, the victims were Americans, but they could just as easily have been diplomats, tourists, or businessmen of any other country. Can any country which accommodates organizations such as SWAPO or the ANC then maintain that its citizens and its own security will not be threatened directly or indirectly by terrorism somewhere?

The Libyan affair is an example of how terrorism has become a product for import and export, and of how, if united action is not taken against it, oneself can be affected at some time.

The British Government has warned Libya in the past that it must not bring terror to Britain. Ambassadors from the EEC have also threatened Libya over its sponsorship of terrorism. But how will this chain of terror ever be broken while Britain tolerates organizations like the ANC, which has links with the Libyan terrorism network?

There is more than sufficient evidence that Tripoli is a sort of terrorism "capital" of the world. So, while the image of most so-called liberation movements may differ, they remain members of one and the same revolutionary element.

And as long as Britain allows the ANC to export terror to South Africa — of which there can surely be no doubt — the trade in that commodity will continue and Britain will again become a receiver and therefore a victim. In the end the rule of law does not protect one against people with a totally different set of rules.

The incident with Libya in London gives perspective to the American decision to fight terrorism across borders. If all countries could be consistent in their condemnation and strategy, there would, hopefully, be fewer occurrences like those in London, at Oshakati, and recently in Durban.

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Invites ANC's Tambo for Talks

*MB251444 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1300 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] The activities of ANC members in Swaziland is to be investigated by the OAU. The OAU has been invited by the Swazi Government to make a first-hand assessment of the problems of militant groups of the ANC in Swaziland. OAU Secretary General Peter Onu has agreed to send a mission after being briefed by Swazi officials on the activities of the ANC. The briefing dealt with the numerous gun battles the ANC have been having with Swazi police patrols. Earlier today, it was reported that Swazi Prime Minister Prince Bhekimpi had invited ANC leader Oliver Tambo to discuss the situation. Tambo has yet to reply to the invitation.

OAU Mission To Arrive

*MB251258 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] An OAU fact-finding mission is due to arrive in Swaziland in the next few days to make a first hand assessment of the situation regarding ANC activities in the country. The visit is at the invitation of the Swaziland Government. This was disclosed this morning by a reliable top-level source in Swaziland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to our Africa staff, he said the OAU had agreed to send a mission after a request was delivered to the secretary general of the OAU, Mr Peter Onu, by Swaziland's minister of labor and public service, Mr Matsebula, last week. He briefed Mr Onu on the activities of the ANC in Swaziland including the recent unprovoked attacks by militant ANC members on Swaziland security forces.

The source in Swaziland's department of foreign affairs welcomed the OAU decision to send the mission to Swaziland, as the country had nothing to fear. The Swaziland Government wanted the whole world to be made aware of the situation it was facing due to the unprovoked attacks of the ANC against the peace-loving and law-abiding people of Swaziland, as he put it. He said he did not know about any members of the Renamo movement who were active in Swaziland. He said it was unlikely that those who claimed to belong to Renamo were members of the movement. He denied that any ANC members had been deported to South Africa.

ZAMBIA

Reportage on Visit by RSA Foreign Minister

Arrives in Lusaka

*MB291928 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1900 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha has made an announced visit to Zambia. Eyewitnesses say Botha arrived at Lusaka's international airport this afternoon and was taken to an

unknown destination. His visit has (?furthered) speculation that South Africa may seek an Nkomati-style agreement with Zambia, but a senior government official in Zambia would not comment on Botha's reported presence in the country, saying it is not our story and Angolan diplomats who held talks with South Africa in Lusaka in February have made no comment either.

Meets Angolan Delegation

*MB260550 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Apr 84*

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, and the administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, have returned to South Africa after a visit to the Zambian capital, Lusaka. Mr Botha and his party held talks with an Angolan Government delegation in Lusaka on procedural problems regarding the disengagement of South African troops from Angola.

Mr Botha told a news conference at Jan Smuts Airport that he did not want to discuss the details of yesterday's meeting, except to say that a mutual agreement had been reached between South Africa and Angola on the eventual withdrawal of South African troops. Mr Botha also said agreement had been reached on the exchange of prisoners of war, which included one South African, a Cuban, and a number of People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola prisoners. Mr Botha said it was difficult to say when the eventual disengagement of South African troops in southern Angola would be completed, but he did not foresee any further obstacles to an eventual withdrawal. He added that he did envisage further meetings between South Africa and Angola about the disengagement.

Referring to the role of President Kaunda in today's meeting in Lusaka, Mr Botha said he had played the role of a host who would like to initiate peace in southern Africa. Mr Botha left for Cape Town last night to report on the meeting to the prime minister. The Angolan delegation at the talks was led by the Angolan minister of internal affairs, Mr Alexandre Rodrigues.

AFP Report on Meeting

*AB260725 Paris AFP in English 0715 GMT
26 Apr 84*

[Text] Johannesburg, Apr 26 (AFP) — South Africa and Angola had "fruitful discussions" at ministerial level on Wednesday to iron out some "difficulties" concerning Pretoria's troop withdrawal from southern Angola. Foreign Minister Roelof 'Pik' Botha said here last night. The talks were held in the Zambian capital, Lusaka. Mr Botha refused to specify the problems, saying only that at issue was the interpretation of certain paragraphs in the February 16 disengagement agreement. He foresaw no obstacles to the smooth accomplishment of the pullback, but would not give a date for its completion. The exercise originally was scheduled to end before the beginning of May. But the authorities here have since said delays were caused by SWAPO guerrillas in southern Angola. Mr Botha said the joint commission monitoring the disengagement, with 300 troops from the two countries, had been in a number of skirmishes with SWAPO

since February 16, with at least 3 guerrillas killed. Mr Botha said an exchange of prisoners had been agreed at yesterday's meeting, but would not say how many were involved. Defence Minister General Magnus Malan and Namibian Administrator-General Willie van Niekerk accompanied Mr Botha. The Angolan side was headed by Interior Minister Quito Rodriguez.

ZIMBABWE

Banana, Mugabe Send Messages to Nyerere

*MB251841 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, and the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, have sent congratulatory messages to the Tanzanian leader, Comrade Julius Nyerere, on the occasion of his country's 20th Union Day today. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the friendship and cooperation which exists between Zimbabwe and Tanzania. Comrades

Mugabe and Banana noted that the friendship dates back to the days of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle when Tanzania gave Zimbabweans diplomatic, moral, and material support.

Yugoslavia Signs Information Cooperation Accord

*MB251246 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Apr 84*

[Text] Zimbabwe and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have signed a 2-year information cooperation accord. The agreement was signed yesterday by the minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, and the Yugoslavian ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Djuro Vukolic, in Harare. Under the agreement, experts from the Yugoslav news agency, TANJUG, will train personnel of the ZIANA. The cooperation also allows the two countries to work together in film-making and Yugoslavia will assist in the establishment of a Zimbabwe published (? post).